



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab League Chief Receives Message From Somalia's Aidid

NC2011144393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has received a message from Somali National Coalition Alliance leader Mohamad Farah Aidid. In a statement today, 'Abd-al-Majid said Aidid requested a neutral committee be formed to investigate the incidents against the UN forces in Somalia. He said the recent Security Council resolution giving up the hunt for Aidid may help to create a calm atmosphere conducive to reconciliation in Somalia.

'Abd-al-Majid denounced any act of aggression against the peacekeeping force in Somalia. He said the OAU and Arab League are working within the framework of Arab-African coordination to restore stability to Somalia through an Arab or African solution.

Security Council Session on Iraqi Embargo Detailed

JN1911151493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The Security Council member states held unofficial consultations yesterday to review the Iraq embargo. The consultations are conducted every two months. Despite the fact that the consultations produced the traditional statement by the Security Council president to maintain the embargo, the discussions held during the consultations draw special attention, particularly the French position.

Diplomatic sources that participated in the consultations told INA's New York correspondent that Morocco and Spain supported the French position. The PRC also asked for lifting all forms of the embargo against Iraq, while the position of the United States and Britain has not changed.

The sources added that the ambassador of New Zealand made a mistake when he said that lifting the oil embargo will not take place before Paragraph 19 of Resolution 687 is implemented. The sources said the statement of the New Zealand ambassador to the United Nations showed he knows little about Resolution 687. In other words, he did not know what he was talking about.

Diplomatic and press sources noted that the position of Britain and the United States was defensive rather than offensive, in light of the positive developments toward implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and lifting the Iraqi oil embargo.

It was noticed that for the first time since the Security Council began reviewing the embargo, the president of the Security Council did not read the text of the statement to the press. Also, the office of the official spokesman did not circulate the text. The president of

the Security Council, the Cape Verde ambassador, only told reporters: We agreed on a statement, just like we did previously.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Meetings Open in Cairo 23 Nov

NC2311111993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1021 GMT
23 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee chaired by Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, and Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff, opened in Cairo this morning.

The committee, which has been joined by the heads of the four committees on the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians, will discuss a number of security issues pertaining to the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the deployment of some of these forces inside the Israeli settlements in these two areas, and defining the area of Jericho that will be governed by the Palestinian national authority.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian-Israeli committees in charge of transferring authority will begin meeting in al-'Arish tomorrow, Wednesday.

The Cairo and al-'Arish meetings are scheduled to continue until Thursday. The Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo this morning aboard a special plane.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Debates Boycott of Israel

NC2211160293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The Arab League Council held a session in Cairo today under the chairmanship of the Mauritanian delegate to the League.

Following the meeting, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held a news conference in which he said that today's meeting, held at Libya's request, focused exclusively on the Arab boycott of Israel. The Libyan delegate delivered a statement which was later debated by the council, 'Abd-al-Majid added.

The Arab League secretary general said that the consensus in the Council was that the Arab boycott of Israel is linked to Israel's occupation of Arab land. Only when the occupation ends can the lifting of the boycott be considered.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid recalled that the decision to boycott Israel was made unanimously by the Arab countries. The boycott can only be lifted when Israel ends its occupation of all Arab territories, he reiterated. 'Abd-al-Majid called

for the implementation of UN resolutions and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Abd-al-Majid Views Libyan 'Flexibility' on Lockerbie

NC2011144993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has said: "We are all exerting the utmost effort to avoid escalating the situation and to find a peaceful settlement to the Libyan-Western crisis known as the "Lockerbie crisis." In a statement today, he said the Libyan Jamhriyah has shown flexibility in this respect.

Envoy Tells League Chief Yemeni Situation Stable

JN2211154793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has met with Ahmad Muhammad al-Shujayni, Yemeni representative to the Arab League. They discussed recent Arab developments and the situation in Yemen.

The Yemeni representative to the Arab League has affirmed that the situation in Yemen is very stable. He noted that contacts among national parties and forces in Yemen are continuing, and that a significant breakthrough has taken place with regard to domestic affairs.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Cairo after the meeting he held with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, al-Shujayni added that hostile foreign news media, including news agencies and newspapers, are promoting inaccurate and exaggerated news reports about Yemen, reports that only reflect their wishful thinking as well as dreams that are hostile to the Arab nation and Yemeni unity. These reports, he added, aim to foment tension in Yemen.

The Yemeni official indicated that the Yemeni people and their national forces are determined to resolve their differences and safeguard Yemeni unity through democratic dialogue. They are determined, he maintained, to safeguard the cohesion of Yemen's domestic front as well as Yemen's territorial integrity to thwart the scheming of enemies who are hostile to unity and the Arab nation alike.

The Yemeni official announced that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his vice president will meet in Sanaa within the next few days.

Concluding his statement, the Yemeni official commended Iraqi-Yemeni ties, describing them as fraternal and excellent. He added that these ties are constantly promoted. They are marked by a common understanding of current pan-Arab issues, he noted.

'Abd-al-Majid, Kuwaiti Official Discuss Prisoners

NC2111125093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT
21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, head of the national committee for Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Cairo.

After the meeting, 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid said that they reviewed the efforts that have been made on gaining the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, what has been achieved so far, and the possibility of resuming these efforts through Ambassador Rashid Idris, the Arab League's envoy on this issue. He expressed his hope that it will be resolved as soon as possible.

The secretary general expressed the Arab League's concern about this matter and its interest in establishing certain facts to comfort all the families suffering from this problem.

'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the meeting was useful and fruitful. He affirmed that the League will continue to make efforts by coordinating with Kuwait, in addition to the contacts it is holding with Iraq, to find a solution to this problem.

The Arab League's secretary general pointed out that he had not received an answer from Ambassador Riyad al-Qays, the official responsible for the Kuwaiti prisoners' file in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He said that he hoped to meet with al-Qays soon to finalize contacts that had been started by Ambassador Rashid Idris in Iraq and Kuwait.

On the other hand, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that the committee has received information from the Swedish prisoners who were recently released by Iraq. They affirmed that there were some Kuwaitis with them in the prison.

He said the committee met with these prisoners and is now trying to establish contact with the recently released American to obtain some more information about this matter.

Shaykh Salim affirmed that the Iraqi documents found in Kuwait after it was liberated prove that there are Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

Answering a question about Kuwait's rejection of the Iraqi proposal to form an Arab committee that will visit Baghdad and examine the file on the prisoners, he said that the proposal presented by Moroccan King Hassan's envoy was dead before it was even born. This is because the objective behind King Hassan's mediation was to discuss only the subject of the prisoners, but Iraq presented all sorts of other topics that had nothing to do with the prisoners' issue.

Iraqi Envoy: No Kuwaiti Prisoners Held

JN2211111593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (INA)—Iraq's Arab League representative has said that Iraq, under President Saddam Husayn's leadership, is eager to establish solid foundations for inter-Arab relations and find final, fair solutions to all outstanding problems.

In an interview with AL-'ARABI newspaper published today, Dr. Nabil Najm renewed Iraq's principled, sincere desire to safeguard pan-Arab security and find fair solutions to inter-Arab problems through recourse to serious formulas away from interference.

Najm told the newspaper Iraq had submitted a paper to the Arab League outlining its comprehensive vision of the question of Arab solidarity, reconciliation, and clearing the Arab atmosphere.

The Iraqi diplomat reaffirmed that the Iraqi authorities do not hold any Kuwaiti prisoners. He accused the al-Sabah regime and colonialist and hostile circles of employing these and other allegations and lies to commit aggression against Iraq and continue to besiege its people.

He added that Iraq is willing to discuss the Kuwaiti allegations that Iraq still holds Kuwaiti prisoners. Iraq is also willing to cooperate with any Arab party and any sincere Arab efforts to close this file once and for all.

Dr. Nabil Najm said that Iraq is suffering an acute shortage of medicine and food as a result of the three-year-old embargo. This has raised the mortality rate, especially among children and old people.

Iraqi Envoy Urges End of Embargo, Freeing of Assets

JN1811181393 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT
18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 18, INA—Arab League Secretary-General Dr 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid met in Cairo Iraq's permanent delegate Dr Nabil Najm and discussed the topic of the Iraqi assets frozen at Arab banks.

Dr Najm demanded the Arab League chief to effectively move pursuant to the Arab League charter for freeing the Iraqi assets frozen at the Arab banks to enable it meeting basic needs of the people from medicine and foodstuffs, referring to consent by the Security Council on freeing some Iraqi assets frozen abroad for humanitarian purposes.

Dr Najm shed light in a press conference on Iraq's firm stance which based on international law on the significance that the Security Council should hasten to lift the comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq according to the resolution 687, especially Iraq had fulfilled its commitments.

Dr Najm had refuted the ongoing campaign being launched by Western circles, especially Britain concerning claims on the human rights in Iraq, stressing that Britain's record is historically rife with breaches of the human rights, saying that the command in Iraq is keen on its people more than those falsely shedding tears for human rights in Iraq.

Replying to a question on claims by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Dr Najm said that these overt campaigns had well-known purposes and political goals designed to affect Iraq's clear-cut stance.

The Iraqi diplomat said that the Kuwaiti regime was fabricating events and tales for its political bankruptcy at Arab and regional levels and for jumbling Iraq's sound stance, confirming that there has been no any Kuwaiti prisoner in Iraq at present.

The Arab League called upon Turkey to sit at negotiating table for settling outstanding problems, and it supports Iraq and Turkey legal rights to joint benefit from waters of Euphrates and Tigris, the Iraqi delegate said.

Islamic Affairs

Palestinian Reconciliation Desired at Khartoum Meeting

JN1911075193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] A meeting of the Islamic Arab People's Conference will convene in Khartoum 2-3 December with the participation of various Palestinian factions.

The Sudanese Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi told our radio that he intends to try to effect a reconciliation among the Palestinian factions during this conference.

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP, PLFP Officials on National Intifadah Leadership

JN22111113193 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 22 Nov 93 p 15

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] In his first visit to Jordan since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), will arrive in Amman today, Monday [22 November].

DFLP officials say that Hawatimah will meet with a number of ranking Jordanian Government officials during his short visit to Jordan, and that the DFLP secretary general will participate in the pan-Arab and Islamic conference due to open in the Sudanese capital on 27 November.

Meanwhile, officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and DFLP told AL-RAY that a unified central command for the two fronts was recently formed in Damascus comprising 14 members, seven from the occupied territories and the other seven from outside the territories.

They emphasized that steps have been taken to entrench unionist relations and unify action on the national Palestinian level in general, and in the occupied territories in particular. The officials noted the issuance of statement No. 100 of the National Leadership of the Intifadah (NLI). This statement is the third since the Fatah Movement and the Palestinian People's Party withdrew from the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on 13 September.

The officials emphasized that the NLI is the mechanism of the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories, and stressed the need for broader participation in this leadership, particularly by the opposition wings in the Fatah Movement, which have different views on the Oslo agreement, as demonstrated by the killing of the Jewish settler Hayim Mizrachi by Fatah members.

The NLI statement No. 100 called for further integration and confrontation of the systematic onslaught launched by the settlers, backed by the occupation forces. The statement called for confronting them with stones, molotov cocktails, and all available means of struggle in order to burn the land under the feet of the occupation army and settlers, and force the enemy to withdraw and accept our people's rights to return and independence.

The NLI also warned against traders who market food unfit for human consumption, thereby causing harm to our people.

DFLP's Hawatimah Views 'Arafat-Rabin Agreement

LD2111174293 Budapest Komrad Radio Network in Hungarian 0805 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by correspondent Gyorgy Onody, place and date not given, from the "World Clock" program—recorded; Hawatimah speaks in English with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hawatimah] I can state that the majority of the Palestinian people, in fact, rejected the [Rabin-Arafat] agreement. That is why we insist that a referendum be held on the Rabin-Arafat agreement. If the referendum approves the agreement, we too, will support it. Until then, however, the majority of the people will continue the struggle, the intifadah, in the interest of the realization of a comprehensive peace. We see total peace in terms of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in the spirit of the assertion of the land for

peace principle, and with the guaranteeing of the right of every Palestinian to return home.

We also profess that the two states, that is Israel and Palestine, must live in peace alongside each other.

[Onody] Mr. Hawatimah, was it then the majority or the minority that accepted the agreement?

[Hawatimah] We must distinguish between the peace talks and the Rabin-Arafat agreement. The majority of Palestinian people strive for the attainment of a comprehensive peace. The Jericho-Gaza agreement did not achieve this. For this reason, the Palestinian people and the majority of the Palestinian organizations, that is the majority of the members of the Executive Committee and the Central Council, rejected the above-mentioned agreement.

[Onody] What happened in the end was that several of them left the various Palestinian organizations, and so the agreement was adopted after a long, long debate. But let us continue the interview. Many people are saying that 'Arafat has escaped forward, away from the financial and internal problems, that his personal power was in danger, and that is why he acted in a way that was fairly unexpected in the eyes of the world. How do you see this problem?

[Hawatimah] This is correct. 'Arafat accepted the plan of the Israeli coalition government, and the United States, at the sixth bilateral Washington meeting, tried to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli ideas. Partly on account of the financial crisis at the PLO, and partly in order to fend off the attack of groups opposing him, 'Arafat accepted the Jericho-Gaza plan, in the framework of which, however, the Palestinian people would not get even its minimum of national rights, not even those that it would have under the known UN resolutions.

[Onody] The world, the superpower, and the former superpower want peace. Under such circumstances, who do you expect to give you support?

[Hawatimah] We know well that the United States, Russia, and Europe too, more or less, are on the side of the Rabin-Arafat agreement. It is not the first time that the main superpower had its own plan too, and achieved what it wants—not just in the Middle East—but throughout the world. But if a superpower forms its own concept in connection with a conflict, it is still not certain that it will be realized. On the other hand we, that is the Democratic Front, are continuing to struggle for a comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. The most important thing for this is the support of our people. One of the forms of this is the struggle that is going on within the framework of the intifadah.

[Onody] My last question: If Rabin or Peres were to send you a letter and invite you to hold discussions, would you accept it?

[Hawatimah] The Democratic Front has shaped broad and many-sided relations with all peace-loving and democratic Israeli parties, including the Labor Party. On the other hand, from 1973 to the present day, we have appealed for peace on numerous occasions. We would also like to recall the letter that I sent to the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, saying that we recognize Israel as the neighbor-state of Palestine.

At the same time, however, we propose the settling of the Palestinian refugee problem. So, we seek relations with all Israeli parties that strive for a comprehensive peace. For this reason we are prepared to take part in every discussion that proposes a real solution to the region's problems.

Jibril Speaks at 'Fighters' Graduation Ceremony

JN2111201693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has presided over a graduation ceremony for a class of quality fighters under the slogan "Armed struggle is the answer and the road." Named after the martyrs of al-'Ayshiyah, the ceremony was held at a front's camp.

Together with Mr. Jibril, the graduation ceremony was attended by the members of the front's political bureau and central committee, in addition to a large crowd of our Palestinian people, including martyrs' relations.

Mr. Jibril delivered an important political speech outlining current risks and how to respond to the policy of liquidation and capitulation. He reiterated that the proponents of the Gaza-Jericho accord will reap ignominy and defeat and that the accord will never survive. Jibril said financial backing by the United States and Europe for 'Arafat will be a limited effort calculated to prop up 'Arafat and his group so they can handle and quell the intifadah. The Zionist ideology that set out to empty the land and displace the Palestinian people is at cross purposes with Rabin's promises and the illusions of the supporters and authors of the Gaza-Jericho accord. This is because only a limited amount of cash will be made available to 'Arafat, who will devote it solely to starting repressive security apparatuses, Jibril declared.

Hebron Notables Urge Continuation of Intifadah

TA1911152993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p A2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] A group of Palestinian notables from Hebron yesterday issued a call urging the continuation of the intifadah, distancing the settlers from Hebron, establishing a central committee to manage the struggle against the settlers, and placing an international force in the territories.

Among the notables were Muhammad al-Hurani, member of the expanded Palestinian peace talks delegation and a former security detainee; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Natshah, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and of the Hebron Academics Association board; and other leaders of the association, controlled by Fatah.

"We must continue the struggle for our rights and dignity," al-Hurani said, after listing some of the incidents in which settlers attacked Hebron residents, including women and children, and damaged cars and houses.

According to al-Hurani, if the current state of affairs continues, Hebron youths will rise and take action against the settlers. Other speakers charged the Israeli Government of, according to them, not instructing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to control the settlers and protect the Palestinian residents.

"How can we sign a peace agreement with a country that cannot even control its citizens? Does it stand to reason that the strong Israel cannot do that?" 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Natshah asked. According to him, the expanding phenomenon of settlers riots, which he described as "a cancer spreading in this city," represents a guided Israeli Government policy aimed at frightening the Palestinians and forcing them to abandon the town, thus creating a fait accompli.

Al-Natshah called for the establishment of a central committee, with subcommittees, to conduct the legal struggle against the settlers as well as the physical struggle in the streets. He also urged the youths to react to the settlers' acts. 'Aziz 'Amr, one of the Academics Association heads, demanded that the government distance the settlers from Hebron, as a first step toward removing them from the territories. According to him, this is how Israel can prove it means peace.

A leaflet Fatah disseminated in Hebron yesterday says: "We ran out of patience. If the price of peace is our exposure to daily attacks by herds of settlers, we say: We will not accept this peace. We, who stand at the gates, will aim our guns at the herds of settlers to protect our nation and its property."

A leaflet of the National Struggle Front, one of the small organizations belonging to the PLO, yesterday warned that "the settlers' acts of terror will bring about violent reactions by the Palestinian people."

Hamas Guide for Guerrillas Reportedly Published

NC2311134393 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 23 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has published a guide for guerrillas, detailing operations against Israelis as a new weapon in its holy war against occupation.

The publishing first for the fundamentalists boasts of the skill and sacrifice of militants in 105 pages of propaganda aimed at inspiring more Palestinians to join the Moslem fight or "jihad".

" Hamas did not publish this book to show off but so it can be used as a guide for everyone who wants to take advantage and follow in the same footsteps," the hard-line group wrote.

"The Heroic Deeds of al-Qassam," referring to the HAMAS armed wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, went on sale for one dollar at a book fair at the Islamic University in Gaza City this week.

However the seller disappeared after one hour.

The fundamentalists stress they want "to reveal the level of security awareness Hamas has reached, which has shocked the Zionist security apparatus.

"The movement wants to strengthen the Jihad following the capitulation," represented by the September 13 autonomy agreement, the book says.

"Military expertise inside and outside the prisons, inside and outside Palestine provides the knowledge to stimulate the jihad in the hearts of all decent people," it claims, describing the conflict as "a mind war".

The authors bring out the political implications of armed operations for the Middle East peace process and adopt the language of the Koran, citing slogans such as "Victory or martyrdom."

They detail three major operations and draw parallels of jihad throughout history, beginning with the prophet Muhammad.

Jamal Musa, 21, is cited as a role model. He took part in the kidnapping and killing of Jewish soldier Alon Caravani in September 18, 1992, just a day after he was released from prison.

"He was more enthusiastic and prepared than anyone else," the book notes.

Disguised as Israelis, the militants from the Gaza Strip enticed Caravani into their car.

"He started shaking and pleaded with them to spare his life.

"When they reached an orchard he was ordered to undress down to his underwear and they began to stab him, first in the neck.

"Knives do not attract attention and cowardly Jews fear knives the most."

The second operation, listed stage by stage from conception to planning and execution, took place on December 7 last year. An Israeli officer and two soldiers were shot dead in an ambush.

The final example was a raid on Gnei Tai settlement in Gaza on January 30, 1993, when two soldiers were killed.

Hamas explains how the attackers dug under a perimeter fence on a bitter day before dawn, having noticed that soldiers kept their hands in their pockets and not on triggers during the cold snap.

The paperback, in the green red, white and black colours of the Palestinians, is dedicated to Jamil Wahdi, a "martyr" killed last June 27 in a shootout with the army.

Poll: Fatah Losing Support to Anti-Autonomy Factions

NC2211134393 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 22 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement is losing ground in the occupied territories where opponents of his autonomy deal are gaining support, according to a poll published Monday [22 November].

The survey by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies found 41 percent of Palestinians would vote for Fatah if elections were held today.

That compared with 45 percent in the last poll carried out by the Nablus-based centre from October 5-8.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas gathered more support, from 13 to 15 percent, and George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine jumped from six to nine percent. However Islamic Jihad dropped from four to three percent.

The Democratic Front went up from one percent to more than two percent.

But two pro-Arafat groups were credited with a combined six percent compared with four percent in October.

Support for independent candidates dropped from 12 percent to nine and for "others" from 15 percent to 14 percent.

According to the poll the increase in support for groups fighting the accord "may be due to the unstable situation in the occupied territories and to unfulfilled political (and) economic expectations after the signing of the Declaration of Principles."

Under the September 13 agreement elections to a Palestinian autonomy council are due to be held by July 13.

The poll was carried out among 1,855 Palestinians in the territories on November 11 and has a margin of error of one percent, the centre said.

Islamic Jihad Claims Suicide Operation Attempt in Gaza

JN2111133293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization in Palestine has claimed responsibility for the suicide attack attempt against an Israeli military vehicle near Gaza in which the perpetrator was killed by Israeli soldiers. Israeli military sources said Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian while trying to carry out a suicide operation against an Israeli military vehicle near Gaza. The sources added that the security forces arrested a Palestinian accomplice.

Struggle 'Will Not Stop' Until Rights Restored

JN2111191093 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Certainly, the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO against Israeli occupation will not stop before restoration of their full legitimate national rights. It has become absurd for anyone to defy this certainty, even the Israeli enemy itself. Now, all enemies and friends recognize this certainty and deal with it as an established fact, regardless of their intentions toward it.

As for us, we know the Israeli enemy's intentions when it came to the peace negotiating table. It realized it was impossible to coerce the will of the Palestinian national struggle, or to deny the reality of the struggle and the fatal effects on it. The Israeli enemy came to the peace talks in order to reduce its grave losses while the conflict continues. The world, including its poles, understands the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their just struggle to restore these rights.

In themselves, the peace negotiations are a form of struggle. They are an Israeli admission that the offensive against occupation has succeeded in penetrating it. The Israeli enemy is negotiating for the sake of arranging a kind of disengagement. Led by the PLO, the Palestinian people want this to take the form of the termination of occupation and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the land of the Palestinian state. The enemy wants this in order to minimize damage to its fragile structure. The glorious intifadah and the long heroic Palestinian national struggle have produced their own achievements, as well as does the Israeli enemy must pay before the region moves toward peace. Otherwise, nothing will stop the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle. Nothing will prevent our people from pursuing their just struggle until their legitimate rights are achieved in full.

Committee Set Up To Press PLO on Democracy

NC2111163293 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, Nov 21 (AFP)—Four senior Palestinian officials have set up a committee to ensure that the PLO

respects their calls for the democratization of Palestinian institutions, one of the officials said here Sunday (21 November).

Nabil 'Amra, an adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser 'Arafat, said the temporary committee would be charged with contacting PLO leaders to "urge them to adopt ideas and requests" set out in a petition calling for more democracy.

The petition, currently being circulated among leading Palestinian officials, calls for a constitution guaranteeing a democratic Palestinian authority and respect for human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories, where limited Palestinian self-rule will be introduced.

Under the terms of the September 13 Palestinian limited autonomy accord signed with Israel in Washington, the Israeli Army is due to start pulling out of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho December 13.

The other members of the committee are: Ibrahim Abu-Ayyash and Tayyar 'Arusi—both members of the PLO's central council—and a member of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, Tawfiq Badr.

'Amra stressed his "respect for the PLO's institutions and commitment to continue working within the framework of these institutions."

Shah'Informs 'Arafat of Israeli Offer To Sell Trucks

JN2111095193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 24

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Israeli minister of tourism has expressed to Dr. Nabil Shah'In, adviser to Palestinian President Yasser 'Arafat, his desire to sell 700 trailer trucks belonging to his ministry, to the PLO.

Dr. Nabil Shah'In informed President 'Arafat about this offer. For his part, President 'Arafat asked his adviser to find out the price of these trucks, which could be used by the Palestinian National Authority in many fields.

Radio, TV Broadcasts Unlikely To Begin Before Jun 94

JN2111091093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Nov 93 p 24

[Text] Bethlehem—QUDS PRESS—Radwan Abu-Ayyash, official in charge of the Palestinian Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation, has said that radio and television transmission equipment will arrive at the corporation within the next month, but that transmission may not begin before June 1994.

The Palestinian leadership had appointed Abu-Ayyash as official in charge of the corporation within the framework of establishing a Palestinian television and radio service in the areas that will be supervised by the

Palestinians in accordance with the self-rule agreement signed by Israel and the Palestinians two months ago.

Abu-'Ayyash said that the corporation is continuing its preparations to launch the project. He noted that 24 cadres will receive training at the Jordanian Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation. The first batch of trainees will leave the occupied territories on Thursday [25 November].

PLO Envoy on Yasin Case, 'Arafat Visit to Germany

*PM2211164793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
19 Nov 93 p 6*

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, PLO representative in Bonn, by I'tidal Salamah in Bonn; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Salamah] You are member of the committee interrogating Mosad agent 'Adnan Yasin. Do you expect surprises, and how will this issue affect peace steps if it is found out that Israel has benefited substantially from its spy?

[Al-Ifranji] Without doubt it is a very serious issue. But this does not happen among Palestinians only. Espionage cases exist in all world states, including Israel itself. At any rate, this was an important security achievement for Israel. This is why the Fatah Central Committee has decided to deal directly with the issue. And for the first time it can be said that Yasir 'Arafat is closely following up on the issue personally. The committee formed to interrogate ['Adnan Yasin] comprises experts and is headed by brother Majid al-Agha, who for known of his capabilities in the security field.

We also believe that this Israeli attempt is not an auspicious omen, especially as it comes after the signing of the peace accord and does not reflect good intentions. We are very cautious and dealing with this issue very responsibly. And when the investigation is completed, we will brief Palestinian and Arab public opinion on all details of the incident.

[Salamah] It is reported in Germany that 'Adnan Yasin visited here several times. Did you send the German Government a warning or information about him, and who is participating in the investigation?

[Al-Ifranji] No foreign power is participating with us in the investigation or in uncovering the espionage operation. The Bonn [PLO] office had no knowledge of his arrival in Germany, nor did anyone know what he was doing, because he was trying to find a vocational school to teach his son car maintenance. He did not attract the attention of German or Palestinian security services. 'Adnan was chosen very carefully, as he is a very calm person and does not say a lot.

[Salamah] There are reports that 'Adnan went to Germany several times to prepare the car which contained advanced espionage devices.

[Al-Ifranji] Loading the car with the necessary equipment and shipping it took place in France, specifically in Marseilles. But without doubt meetings took place in Germany and other states. We now have all the details but do not want to discuss the issue before the investigation has been completed.

[Salamah] Some newspapers say that Yasin will be moved to Yemen to complete the investigation with him there. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Ifranji] We are in Tunis now, and I believe that investigation capabilities are available here; the brothers in the Tunisian security authorities are providing us with every help, and there are no problems between us to prompt us to move 'Adnan to Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Salamah] What could 'Arafat's visit to Bonn achieve?

[Al-Ifranji] We view 'Arafat's visit politically, because of its importance in building a relationship between the Palestinian and German peoples and the PLO. It is a real recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination within the peace equation to be established between us and the Israelis. This is the first achievement of the visit. 'Arafat is also seeking to consolidate the peace process in the region and to make it permanent and just. He will raise with officials in Bonn the issue of the German role in this process, especially as they had experience in rebuilding after World War II. And they have new experience in rebuilding East Germany. So German expertise can be of benefit in this connection, in addition to Germany's huge economic and industrial capabilities. So 'Arafat's meetings will not be confined to government officials. They will include meetings with businessmen and the establishment, which can contribute to the rebuilding process.

'Arafat will stress in Bonn that any help for the Palestinians is a contribution to consolidating the peace process in the region. And any German investment will bring positive results for both Palestinians and Germans, because anyone who invests in the region now will gain a political and economic presence and solve an economic problem. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, U.S. Envoy to Tunisia Discuss Peace Process

*LD2011184093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 20 Nov 93*

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia. During the meeting a review was made of the developments in the peace process and the preliminary results of the negotiations since the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement in Washington and the 13 December deadline for the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar underlined the need to speed up the projects and aid that will be extended by states in order to build the Palestinian infrastructure that was destroyed by occupation and to help rebuild the Palestinian police force and the national security forces after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

Optimism Voiced on Christopher Trip to Region

TA2211181893 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
20 Nov 93 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "Will Christopher Bring Encouraging Proposals?"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that during his upcoming visit to the region at the beginning of December, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will bring new proposals to advance the peace process in the Middle East. The issue which attracts special U.S. interest is the Syrian-Israeli track. These reports come in the wake of elaborate talks which President Clinton and Secretary Christopher held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who just ended a visit to the United States. It seems that the new U.S. proposals were coordinated with Rabin and that the details will be discussed with the Syrians.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' confirmed these reports and hoped that Christopher's upcoming tour will result in returning to the Washington bilateral talks. This reference to returning to the talks proves that it has become possible to activate the peace process and overcome the paralysis that engulfed the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, which had placed the entire peace process at a difficult impasse. The important question being posed by observers is: Has Washington become convinced, or has it convinced Tel Aviv that it is futile to divide the peace process and isolate Syria in the hope of concluding separate agreements on other tracks? Undoubtedly, such an attempt will halt the peace process and perhaps destroy it completely.

Syria remains the main factor in the peace process. This was manifested clearly during the rounds of negotiations in Washington and before that in the Madrid Conference. Syria will neither change nor modify its established position, namely, that it supports negotiations and peace, but the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle remain the terms of reference. This means that Israel should agree to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, whereupon Syria will be ready to sign peace and normalization agreements with the Hebrew state. What is arousing the resentment of Damascus is Israeli procrastination and attempts to circumvent these clear and established principles. If this Israeli approach continues, it will suffice to derail the peace process.

This picture has become clear to Christopher and other U.S. leaders. Therefore, his trip to the region dictates

that he proceed from these concepts and meet the challenge imposed by Israeli intransigence. If progress is made on the Syrian track and if Christopher succeeds to push the Syrians and Israelis to sign "a declaration of principles," he would be scoring a brilliant success toward the achievement of peace in the region. This would mean that a breakthrough had been realized in the peace process and that the negotiating parties would be able to move speedily to discuss the possibility of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Progress on the Syrian track, in parallel with progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, will put the peace process on the right course. We do not believe that Christopher's statements were made in a vacuum. Moreover, he would not be making this trip if he did not have the impression that his visit will achieve the success aspired for by the U.S. Administration. However, we wish to say a few words to Christopher: He should stop pursuing the policy of marketing Israeli plans based on intentional ambiguity, separating solutions on the one hand, and launching partial solutions on the other.

Washington is called upon to press the Israeli side to adopt a new policy based on recognizing the facts and opening the way toward a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace that upholds the rights and interests of all the parties without exception.

U.S. Stance on Israeli Settlers' Acts Criticized

TA1911194093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
19 Nov 93 p 11

[Editorial: "So That the U.S. 'Concern' Will Not Remain Mere Lip Service"]

[Excerpts] In light of the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories, it is neither odd nor unexpected of the United States to issue a statement calling for efforts to halt this deterioration. It was also not surprising for the United States, in view of its role in the peace process, to clarify the reasons for its "concern" at this deterioration, which is threatening the continuation of this process. [passage omitted]

The U.S. statement calls to mind the recent pro-Israel U.S. policy, which is totally incompatible with the presumed U.S. role in the peace process. This U.S. position also increases doubts that the "concern" expressed by Washington is not really over the lives, properties, and rights of defenseless Palestinians in the occupied territories as much as it represents a new cover for Israel to evade its responsibilities toward the current situation. It also represents a cover for diverting attention from the real reasons for the existing tension, foremost of which are Israel's foot-dragging in its negotiations with the Arab side in general and the Palestinians in particular, and its continuing attempts to avoid paying the price of making a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace.

If the United States is concerned about what is taking place in the occupied territories and is actually interested in advancing the peace process, it has to dot the i's and cross the t's, reaffirm the illegality of settling in the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, condemn the settlers' flagrant attacks on defenseless Palestinians, and call on the Israeli Government to shoulder its responsibility toward the current situation on one hand, and toward the peace process on the other. Otherwise, the U.S. position will remain mere lip service that serves to prolong the deterioration rather than really contributing to achieving progress toward peace.

Brazil Raises Palestinian Diplomatic Representation

*LD2111203193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 21 Nov 93*

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, yesterday received Ambassador (Pedro Paulo), personal envoy of the Brazilian president. The Brazilian envoy conveyed to Brother President Abu 'Ammar the greetings of the Brazilian president and Government, and confirmed the Brazilian Government's decision to raise the level of Palestinian diplomatic representation in Brazil to general legation [mufawwadiyah 'amah].

Algeria

Authorities Round Up 300 for Interrogation

NC2311083793 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT
23 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 23 (AFP)—Security forces took in 300 people for questioning at Annaba, in eastern Algeria, on Monday [22 November], in a combined five-hour police and army operation, the daily EL WATAN reported Tuesday.

Two helicopters overflew the city during the operation, similar to moves against Islamic fundamentalist groups in other major Algerian cities since the beginning of November.

A stand-off between Algeria's military authorities and Islamic activists has left several hundred dead since parliamentary elections won by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front were cancelled in January 1992.

Further on Clash Between Rival Groups

LD2211144193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Under the headline Extremist Groups on the Way Toward Self-Destruction, this morning's EL WATAN talked about a clash between armed groups which left more than 27 dead. This happened during the weekend in one of the capital's southern districts. Different kinds of weapons and cold steel were used in these clashes.

EL WATAN added that following the war of words between them, the armed groups came to fighting and killing in accordance with the logic of each group. Other reports talked about an anticipated real war between these groups. Meanwhile the combing operation carried out by the security forces is expected to tighten their grip on the positions of these groups.

Prime Minister Malek Views Foreign Affairs, Elections

JN2011174293 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTihad AL-USBU'I in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Redha Malek by Sayyid Hamdi in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hamdi] Is there anything new on the Western Sahara?

[Malek] We always urge the brothers, whether Moroccans or Sahara people, to positively and finally resolve this issue, so it does not leave behind a legacy of mines and other explosive factors.

[Hamdi] Algeria supports a solution?

[Malek] Yes, it supports a solution, which, God willing, will be a positive one. This is important for the Arab Maghreb as a whole. We are interested in seeing that the

region always enjoys peace and cooperation, especially since our relationship with Europe is of great importance. Europe sees us as Algeria, and simultaneously as the Arab Maghreb. We should move forward on the path of coordination and cooperation, so we can stand on strong ground before the EC.

Algeria has strong relations with the African states south of the Sahara, such as Niger and Mali. We cooperate with these states, receive their presidents, and help them resolve their problems, such as the Tuareg problem, which took place with Mali. We are now trying to achieve the same thing with Niger. There is also economic cooperation. We are not trying to abandon our commitments to our brothers in Africa, despite our limited capabilities.

[Hamdi] What about the Arab and Islamic levels?

[Malek] The atmosphere on the Arab and Islamic levels should also be cleared. We recently attended the Islamic states ministerial conference in the Pakistani capital of Karachi. We said we are all Muslims who cooperate with each other for good and piety, and not for evil and aggression. We demanded that we, as Islamic states, should be committed to the unity of ranks and to respect for international law, which means noninterference in the internal affairs of any country in conformity with the UN's basic charters. We do not want anyone to interfere in our internal affairs. If we do not respect international law, we will not succeed in our march.

[Hamdi] There is much argument inside and outside Algeria on two important issues, that is, the date to end the Higher State Council's term, and the presidential elections. Can we know anything new about these two issues?

[Malek] It is not possible to hold any elections now, at the presidential or other levels, because the situation does not allow us to do so. Therefore, we accepted the idea of a transitional period, which has become necessary.

[Hamdi] Has a specific time been set for this?

[Malek] Currently, there are discussions with some parties on the level of dialogue committees. The discussions focus on a time period of two to three years. At any rate, this time is necessary so the state can confront difficulties from a solid base. At the same time, parties that accept the rules of the democratic game can play their role, continue, and grow stronger. We need parties. They are institutions needed for the democratic experiment. This is a natural matter, along with our call for pluralism. This requires the presence of parties with real ideas and presence. When the internal situation becomes stable and takes its normal course, we will take all measures pertaining to elections.

[Hamdi] Is there any confirmation that the Higher State Council's term will expire by the end of this year?

[Malek] The continuity of the state is unquestionable. The current Higher State Council will go, but there will

be another authority that will be in charge of running the state. The main concern is stability and continuity.

[Hamdi] There is relentless French-American competition to win the bulk of international trade with Algeria, which has huge natural resources. How is Algeria dealing with this situation, taking into consideration the Algerian trend toward more openness with Japan?

[Malek] We have extensive relations with Europe, especially France. We also have relations with Japan and the United States. But the bulk of the debt is with France, followed by Japan.

[Hamdi] It has been rumored that Algeria's foreign debt due by the end of this year will amount to \$47 billion. Is this true?

[Malek] No, no. This is not true. The debt amounts to \$25 billion. This year's service amounts to \$9.7 billion out of the debt due.

[Hamdi] In the past few years, Algeria has been eager to promote its relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council states. How do you assess bilateral relations between Algeria and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]?

[Malek] We are working to strengthen our relations with the UAE. We are quite open to fruitful and effective cooperation with the UAE. We feel we need to give a boost to these bilateral relations. In Algeria, we have a special investment law that offers many prospects for economic activity, which we are eager to encourage. The UAE can benefit from this opportunity, especially in light of the natural resources existing in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Government Report Assesses Economic Prospects

LD2211150893 Rabat MAP in English 1357 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 22 (MAP)—To be operational, the Algerian industrial sector needs two billion dollars per year in imports while it barely exports 350 million dollars, an official report on economic prospects in Algeria said. The country earmarks another two billion dlrs to import food, the report said specifying that agricultural export earnings cover only one percent of imports.

The report, compiled by the High State Committee to serve as a reference for talks with economic and social contractors, also said that the servicing of the 25 billion dollars Algerian foreign debt soaks about 80 percent of export revenues, which is nine billion dollars. Social needs in housing, health and education mainly will be 1.5 fold for the next ten years and experts say social unbalance could increase during the period, the report went on.

The productivity rate remains the lowest in the region and is the result of a non realistic investment policy which spends 20 dinars to get one dinar in return, the

report explained. The report recommends systematic severance from an "exhausted model" whose critical discrepancies were masked for long by oil revenues and calls for "positive structural adjustment" to boost economic recovery.

Egypt

'Militant' Denies Afghan Veterans Involved in Attacks

NC2211173593 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 22 (AFP)—A founder of an Egyptian Islamic militant group said former veterans of the war in Afghanistan were not involved in recent attacks by militants in Egypt, in an interview published here Monday [22 November].

Ayman al-Zawahiri, a founder of the Tala'i' Al-Fath (Vanguard of the Conquest) movement, told the opposition weekly AL-ARABI: "Most young people involved in recent (militant) operations have never been to Afghanistan."

Al-Zawahiri, himself an Islamic militant sought by the Egyptian authorities, said the assassination attempt against Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi in Cairo on August 18 was a "suicide operation," which he had planned.

Tala'i' Al-Fath said it carried out the attack, in which General al-Alfi was seriously wounded and three civilians and the two assailants were killed.

Al-Zawahiri, who went to fight Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s, now lives in Geneva.

The Egyptian authorities have accused Islamic militants living in Afghanistan and Pakistan of masterminding attacks in Egypt, and Cairo has been seeking their extradition for months.

Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has pledged to remove all threats to Egypt's security from Afghan territory, where hundreds of the Egyptian militants are based.

A statement issued at the end of Rabbani's visit to Egypt said the Afghan president "condemned terrorism in all its forms, and stressed he would not allow Afghan territory to be used to undermine Egypt's security and stability."

It did not say whether Rabbani agreed to an Egyptian request for a bilateral extradition treaty to be signed, so that Islamic militants already convicted by Egyptian courts could be sent back from Afghanistan.

Al-Zawahiri warned that Tala'i' al-Fath would "once again be visible on the ground," and a committee of ulema, or Islamic scholars, had been instructed by the

movement to issue fatwas, or religious death sentences, to be carried out by the militants.

Tala'i' Al-Fath aimed to establish an Islamic state "that strives to liberate (occupied) Moslem territories, starting with Jerusalem, and to liberate the Moslem nation from economic dependence on the West," al-Zawahiri said.

Asked whether his movement was planning to assassinate U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, al-Zawahiri said: "The Moslems in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Palestine and Egypt are waiting for Butros-Ghali to be eliminated."

Al-Zawahiri was sentenced to jail during the trial of militants involved in the assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat in October 1981, and was released in 1984.

AL-'ARABI said it interviewed him by fax.

Islamic militants declared war on the Egyptian authorities in March 1992, launching a wave of violence against the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in which at least 225 people have died.

Security Issues Raised in Mubarak-Rabbani Talks

PM1911151193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Afghanistan Pledges To Submit Lists of Afghan Egyptians and Deport Them; Cairo To Participate in Training And Arming Afghan Forces"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Afghanistan has expressed its willingness to submit a list of the Afghan Egyptians [Egyptians who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin] who fled there and to receive a high-level Egyptian security delegation to agree on the possibility of joint cooperation to tighten the security grip on them.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that in the final session of their talks yesterday Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani reviewed what has been achieved at the level of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The two countries agreed on Egypt's participation in training and reorganizing the Afghan forces and supplying them with some Egyptian weapons and ammunition.

Safwat al-Sharif said that yesterday the two presidents also reviewed international and regional issues of concern to the two countries and ways of bolstering and developing relations of bilateral cooperation between them in various spheres in the interests of both peoples.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Afghanistan promised to prepare and submit to Egypt a complete list of the terrorist elements among the Afghan Egyptians present on its territory or on its border with Pakistan, and also to help in arresting or deporting them to Egypt

and to prevent them from fleeing again to unknown areas. This is in addition to Afghanistan's willingness to receive any Egyptian security delegation in Kabul to hold extensive talks on the foundations of security cooperation between the two countries and to revise the lists of Egyptians who fought alongside the Afghan mojahedin, some of whom are currently working with relief organizations and agencies.

Afghanistan also pledged to assist Egyptian security authorities to arrest the elements fleeing to other states from Afghanistan by checking departure lists in Kabul.

The Egyptian-Afghan talks have also resulted in the two countries' agreement to strengthen and bolster ties of cooperation between them at various levels and in all spheres, including military cooperation to train and reorganize the Afghan forces and supply them with some Egyptian weapons and ammunition.

During his official talks and meetings with senior Egyptian officials the Afghan president stressed that his country is seeking to establish ties of cooperation with Egypt, to benefit from Egyptian expertise in reconstruction operations, and to avoid granting political asylum to or sheltering any Egyptian individuals or elements opposed to the regime in Egypt.

The Egyptian information minister said the two countries agreed to prepare a permanent information protocol and to receive a number of experts and specialists in the broadcasting, television, and press spheres.

Criminal Extradition Protocol Signed With Afghanistan

NC2311102293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Zaki]

[Text] Egypt and Afghanistan have signed an international cooperation protocol to extradite fugitive criminals. Major General 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Nahhas, first assistant interior minister and chairman of the Higher Police Council, said that the Interior Ministry gave an Afghan delegation a list of Egyptian terrorists who are now in Afghanistan and urged that they be handed over to Egypt. He explained that the list included court verdicts passed against these terrorists. Maj. Gen. al-Nahhas declined to reveal the number of terrorists involved but gave details about the contacts carried out between Egyptian and Afghan security apparatuses in connection with the extradition of the terrorists, particularly Muhammad al-Shawqi al-Islambuli.

Al-Nahhas pointed out that, in addition to the Interior Ministry, other Egyptian security agencies also signed the agreement with the Afghan delegation.

Al-Nahhas denied any human rights violations inside the prisons and described the reports submitted by international human rights agencies as tendentious and false. He accused these international agencies of encouraging terrorism!

Maj. Gen. al-Nahhas told AL-WAFD that the Interior Ministry has begun to improve living conditions inside the jails and has drawn up a plan for implementing rules and regulations to organize the jails. He announced that the ministry is building two new jails outside Cairo to overcome the problem of crowding inside Egyptian jails.

PLO's 'Abbas, Musa Comment on Gaza-Jericho Talks

*NC2211195893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT
22 Nov 93*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Egypt is trying to clear the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Egypt does not submit papers or interfere with the content of negotiations, he said, but when asked it does what it can to remove any snags that the talks encounter.

The foreign minister today held a meeting with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, and Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo, attended the meeting.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed hope that the Palestinian and Israeli sides would surmount any difficulties facing the negotiations. Minister Musa said that Egypt's efforts in this regard are in line with Arab consensus. Egypt coordinates closely with the Palestinians, he added. Minister Musa said that he and 'Abbas went over details of the negotiations conducted in the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

For his part, 'Abbas said that the meeting focused on the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. We briefed Minister Musa on all aspects of the talks conducted so far as well as the agenda for the forthcoming meetings, 'Abbas remarked. He pointed out that the talks will resume tomorrow, Tuesday.

We discussed with Minister Musa all the aspects of the talks and the difficulties facing us, 'Abbas said. He pointed out that security matters, the crossings, and other minor issues still represent difficulties for the negotiators.

Concerning the return of Palestinian refugees, Mahmud 'Abbas said that two problems are included in this issue: the first is that of refugees [al-laji'in] and the second is that of the displaced [al-nazihin].

'Abbas pointed out that the agreement signed by the Palestinians and Israelis addressed the problem of displaced Palestinians. An Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee will look into that issue. There are no obstacles in the way that issue, 'Abbas said.

Everyone who is registered as a resident of the Gaza strip or the West Bank has the right to return home, whether or not the necessary preparations for absorbing the returnees are in place. As for the refugees, this problem has been left for the final phase, 'Abbas said.

'Abbas expressed his hope that all the issues concerning Israeli withdrawal, the deployment of Palestinian forces, and the return of the Palestinian leadership will be settled before the Israeli withdrawal scheduled for 13 December.

If all these issues are agreed upon ahead of that date, there will be no problem, 'Abbas said. But if they are not, some delay will take place. He affirmed that sides are committed to what they signed. A delay of two or three days will be quite normal, he stated.

'Abbas called on the Israeli Government to end the hostile acts of Israeli settlers against Palestinian citizens to avoid any negative repercussions on the talks. He pointed out that no date has yet been set for a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli follow-up committee.

Commenting on the graduation of a class of Palestinian policemen in Cairo today, 'Abbas said that they are the beginning of the Palestinian police forces that will be ready to go to Gaza and Jericho on 13 December.

As for Palestinian detainees in Israel, 'Abbas said that the Palestinian delegation is pressing hard for an agreement on this matter. It is unfitting for a withdrawal to take place while Israeli prisons are full of detainees, he declared.

Concerning the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting, 'Abbas said that the date of this meeting has not been set. The matter is still under discussion, he noted.

'Abbas said that the Palestinians are in touch with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. However, the five-way [Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese-Palestinian-Egyptian] coordination has been discontinued, 'Abbas said, calling for the resumption of this coordination.

Concerning the Arab boycott of Israel, 'Abbas said that the issue concerns Arab countries, adding that they should make the decision they deem appropriate.

'Abbas Comments on Talks, Departs

*NC2311112993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, left Cairo for Tunis this morning after a visit to Egypt of several days, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. 'Abbas also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

In a departure statement, Abu-Mazin said he and President Mubarak discussed developments in the peace

process and the current negotiations with the Israelis on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He affirmed that progress has been made on some points while disagreement exists on others, such as the crossings and security issues.

He said President 'Arafat will visit Cairo next week to meet President Mubarak within the context of their ongoing consultations. He noted that no arrangements have been made for next month's meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo.

Peace Talks, U.S.-Israeli Arms Deal Criticized

NC2311092293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Nov 93
p 8

["Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Peace Supermarket"]

[Text] No one in the Arab world has acted to ascertain the real dimensions of the new escalation represented by the recent U.S.-Israeli agreement that will provide Israel with a huge arsenal of advanced weapons and technology, planes, and missiles. The only exception was the polite diplomatic reaction of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in which he said that seeking military superiority is not in the interest of peace in the region.

It appears that the absence of Arab coordination has become the unique feature of Arab relations and that the vague or false dawn of peace has created an unnatural situation between the Arab parties. This situation has prompted each party to seek, behind the backs of the others, to hold negotiations, talks, and contacts with Israel in order to obtain guarantees, or what this party believes to be guarantees, and concessions, or what that party believes to be concessions. This prompted a commentator in THE NEW YORK TIMES to say that the Arab countries have started to weave alliances against each other.

The commentator came to the conclusion that Israel has become the country holding the key to the situation in the Middle East and that, as the strongest country in the region, will be the one most capable of tipping the delicate balances in it.

It is most certain that Israel has not found itself dragged or pressed but has sought to spoil the Madrid formula, which guaranteed the minimum level of Arab coordination, in order to deal separately with each party. All the principles and links—on which the cordon states had spent money, time, and effort in the Damascus meetings in order to attain—collapsed as soon as agreement on the Declaration of Principles was reached between Israel and the PLO in the secret Oslo talks. King Husayn thought that, since the Palestinians had met with the Israelis behind his back, why shouldn't he meet with the Israelis behind the back of the Palestinians and the others in order to get what he wants from Israel. This did happen. King Husayn and Peres held a secret meeting, which all sources and organizations have denied. This denial only

confirmed that the meeting did indeed take place. Israel and the United States urged Syria to pursue the same secret road to the Israeli "supermarket" so as to obtain its goods. But Syria refused to do so... or this is what seems to be the case so far.

The gravity of the deal is that it is casting dark clouds over the whole Arab region, especially with regard to the consequences of most of the agreements that will be implemented in the future.

The important question is this: Will U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher come to the region to put America's seal on these new balances now that the key has been put in Israel's pocket? Or will the Arab parties find in the end that coordination could be in their interest and that the dreadful race will only land them in Israel's lap?

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From King Husayn

NC2111193493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT
21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan this evening. They discussed Arab and regional issues.

Mubarak Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

NC2111125993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT
21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution. The message was conveyed by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif during his meeting with the president today.

The information minister said that he recently visited Libya, where he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Col. al-Qadhdhafi. He pointed out that Col. al-Qadhdhafi's message deals with a number of important current issues.

Minister al-Sharif said that he submitted a report to President Mubarak on his visit to Libya, which was made within the context of the consultations between President Mubarak and Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Briefs Musa on Iraqi 'Provocations'

NC2211160993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Kuwait's ambassador in Cairo, 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan. Following the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador said he had conveyed to Musa a verbal message

from the Kuwaiti foreign minister as part of the constant consultations between the two countries on developments in the region.

The Kuwaiti ambassador said Musa explained to him Egypt's efforts to resolve Arab issues. For his part, the ambassador briefed Musa on the recent developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and the Iraqi regime's provocations there.

Editorial Criticizes Saddam's Actions Against Kuwait

*NC2311105393 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
18 Nov 93 p 5*

[Editorial: "Iraqi People Are Victims of Saddam's Crimes"]

[Excerpt] What does dictator Saddam Husayn want from the skirmishes that his forces are carrying out on the border with Kuwait, we ask for the umpteenth time. What aim is his sick mind entertaining behind these boyish acts that he is using to try to scare his Arab neighbor Kuwait every now and then? Perhaps he wants to remind us and the world that he is still alive and capable of defying the United Nations, the Security Council, and even the Arab League and that he will escape the consequences.

The butcher of Iraq was not content with the huge crime he committed against his unfortunate people and the whole Arab nation when his sick mind made him imagine that he could escape punishment and get away with occupying Kuwait, stealing its oil and wealth, and turning it into an Iraqi province. He imagined that this would be the first phase of his plan to seize the other Gulf states.

A person with any brains at all would have kept silent and retired to a dark corner after he squandered his country's oil wealth in his unsuccessful eight-year war against Iran and then in his misadventure to seize Kuwait. Saddam should thank God for escaping with his own skin intact and not losing his head after his utter failure to achieve his mad dreams. If he had, perhaps the world would have forgotten his mischievous deed after a while. [passage omitted]

Musa Briefs Mubarak on Trip to Ethiopia, Bahrain

*NC2311142593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak has received a report on the results of the meetings of the foreign ministers of the OAU Summit Bureau countries. The meetings, which were held recently in Addis Ababa, to discuss setting up an African mechanism to prevent and resolve disputes between African countries.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made this statement after President Mubarak received him today. He said that he also told President Mubarak about the results of his talks with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi and his meetings with a number of African ministers on the sidelines of the conference.

The foreign minister added that he presented to the president the results of the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Bahraini Committee, which were held recently in Manama.

The foreign minister said that during the meeting they reviewed the progress in the peace process and the efforts in this regard.

Column Praises Somalis' Steadfastness Against UN, U.S.

*NC2211192193 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic
20 Nov 93 p 20*

["An Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] When the new world order was announced, some imagined that the small nations would have no future because the weak have no place in the new world and one big country has all the power, influence, and force.

However, the hungry and weak Somali people, who consist of no more than three million naked and semi-naked people, have managed to confront the U.S. and UN forces. The Somali people had old rifles, swords, and spears and the U.S. and UN armies had giant armies, huge fleets, and immense planes. The UN forces tried to arrest Somali leader Mohamed Farah Aidid but he disappeared in June. The mighty UN forces and their satellites tried to find him but could not because he was moving from house to house and street to street. The powerful planes were trying to find him, but to no avail. Every man, woman and child in the street knew where the leader was but no one would reveal his location despite threats and promises and despite the huge amount of money allocated to whoever arrested the disappearing leaders. All attempts and efforts failed. The primitive weapons defeated the most modern inventions of war.

The United States was forced to stop searching for and tracking down the leader. The UN Security Council canceled its decision to arrest Somali leader Farah Aidid. The Council decided to carry out a new investigation to ascertain the truth behind those accused of killing 24 Pakistani soldiers from among those working within the framework of the international forces. The big powers accused Aidid of being the only defendant in the case.

The Somali people stood fast in the face of the mighty cannons, the destructive bombs, and hunger. They refused to sell their independence, freedom, and sovereignty in return for the food that is being distributed freely to the hungry.

Last Thursday Aidid appeared on television. The people gathered around him and the tribes slinked into Mogadishu from all parts chanting to the weak leader who defeated the strong. The man who was forced into silence by the mighty armies spoke. He said that justice had triumphed over injustice and that fairness had defeated unfairness. He said that the unity of the nation had defeated omnipotence and that the will of the people was stronger than bombs and fleets.

When the small nations unite and stand fast they always triumph.

Al-Baz Discusses Regional, International Issues

NC2311110993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Nov 93
p 6

[Report by Fa'iqah 'Abduh]

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that Egypt will soon undergo three important changes. These are: the gradual and tangible expansion of the arena of democracy; the success of the economic reform program which is going into its final stages; and the reform of the educational system. He said that the results of economic reform will be crystallized at the end of 1995 and during 1996.

He said: This will be followed by cultural and conceptual changes for the state.

In a meeting he held the night before last at the meeting hall of the Alexandria Governorate's Secretariat, Dr. al-Baz affirmed the importance of economic cooperation among the Arab countries and of making democratic changes by following the course of dialogue—something President Husni Mubarak pointed out in his recent speech before the People's Assembly—as well as the importance of efforts to render the economic reform program a success and develop the educational and cultural system through all means.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly; members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council; and key figures in the business, industry, and education sectors.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz stated that economic cooperation in the region, or what is called the Middle Eastern market, is a dream some Israelis have, but which is ruled out at this time. However, the idea of cooperation is feasible on a Middle East level.

Dr. al-Baz affirmed that the statement regarding the need to have one power in the world order—the United States—reflects superficial thinking. He pointed out that the new world order we are talking about is still in the making and that its characteristics have not yet become very clear.

He said: We are currently moving toward a multipolar age and away from a single pole. There is united Europe, which includes 350 million people and enjoys high production and economic potential. It also has great cultural influence. The United States comes second, followed by Japan and the Asian countries called the Asian tigers.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz added during the meeting, which was held last night [as published] at the Secretariat of the Alexandria Governorate, that the figures for exports in the Asian market are astounding. In South Korea, there are two companies that alone export \$16 billion worth of products a year each. As for Japan, it has a huge export potential, which is what turned it into a creditor nation to the United States.

He clarified that there are three types of changes taking place in the world. These are rapid international changes, as well as regional and local changes taking place at a slower rate.

Al-Baz attributed these changes to three reasons: change in the balance of power in the world; change in the values and concepts governing the international community; and the emerging importance of freeing world trade.

He said: We need to study these changes well so that we can define our stance based on them and find out whether we are moving in the right direction or not.

He discussed the other international forces such as China and the Russian Federation. He affirmed that China will become a big international power in the near future because the Chinese have great patience and discipline, which has helped them plan well and reform their administrative system.

He said the Russian Federation, with a population of 165 million, has a huge material and production capacity that will enable it to become a superpower after China.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz stated that the importance of military force is declining and that of economic power increasing. He noted that in fifty years' time, economic power will be the most important power because the security of governments lies in economic success in the future.

Dr. al-Baz spoke about the new values prevailing throughout the world. He said that among these values is the concept of the globalness of peace. This concept has become clear through the international community's stand to confront any aggression against any state. Therefore, states will decrease their interest in arms and concentrate on the economic and social aspects.

He added that as a result, large economic blocs have emerged instead of small economic units. He pointed out that the European bloc, which includes states that had wars and differences between them at one time, is now getting closer and closer to total union after implementing the Maastricht Treaty.

He clarified that one of the changes in values is to sanction intervention in the internal affairs of countries, contrary to the earlier idea that the sovereignty of a state is absolute. He noted the UN's intervention in Somalia to restore peace, despite the opposition of some Somali parties.

Sidqi Addresses Consultative Council on Economy

NC2111055293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has said that the statement which President Mubarak delivered to a joint session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council was a definite call for unrestricted investment.

Addressing a Consultative Council meeting today, Dr. Sidqi said it is necessary to begin taking steps to allow unrestricted investment and trade, warning of the dangers of delay. He urged the People's Assembly and Consultative Council to back future government measures in this respect.

The prime minister explained that the government's task during the second stage of the economic reform program is to increase supply and consequently increase exports. He explained that the government aims to reduce the inflation rate to three percent by 1995.

Commenting on the deputies' deliberations, Dr. Sidqi announced that so far there is no agreement between Egypt and the World Bank but Egypt has sent letters of intent to the IMF's Board of Governors, of which Egypt is a member, asking for a reduction of its debts with the concurrence of the creditor countries who are IMF members.

The Consultative Council met this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi to discuss the broad aspects of the second stage of the economic and social reform plan. The Council will continue its meetings this evening.

[In a related item, Cairo ESC Television in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 20 November reports: "Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said he expects that the economic reform program will have a third stage when the current stage ends in 1995. In a statement today to the Consultative Council, which was discussing the general aspects of the economic reform program for the next stage, Dr. Sidqi said that a tight monetary policy will be maintained for some time with the aim of reducing inflation to about three percent from the current 10 percent."]

Mubarak Holds Meeting With Ministers

NC2111105893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a meeting this morning at the presidential

headquarters with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning.

The meeting was also attended by Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; 'Atif 'Ubayd, public business sector minister and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs; Salah Hasaballah, housing and utilities minister; Ibrahim Fawzi, industry minister; Engineer Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman, minister of state for new urban communities; and Engineer Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production.

Libya

Al-Bishari Comments on Lockerbie, Sanctions

PM2211151993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 6

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, permanent representative to the Arab League, by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Faqiyy] What do you believe are the causes of the Arab political failure to handle the Lockerbie crisis and find a solution to it, despite the mediation efforts made by many Arab and African leaders?

[Al-Bishari] Because the Arabs are divided. If they were united, no one would have been able to impose sanctions on Libya or any other country.

[Al-Faqiyy] What truth is there in the report that Libya offered to pay Russia \$1.8 billion in return for vetoing the decision to toughen sanctions?

[Al-Bishari] It is absolutely untrue.

[Al-Faqiyy] Why has the political "isolation" policy pursued by Libya with the Western states failed?

[Al-Bishari] They are using the Lockerbie case against Libya for other purposes. From the outset we denounced the two regrettable incidents (the Lockerbie and UTA bombings) and demanded that the perpetrators of these actions be brought to trial and punished. We know that the Lockerbie crisis is stirred up and escalated for reasons relating to the peace process and in an attempt to seize [istihwaz] oil, especially as there are limited quantities of it and Libya possesses the world's third largest strategic reserve. The question is much more complicated than the downing of two planes and the existence of two suspects. We have repeatedly announced our willingness to try them anywhere. Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir has said this on several occasions. But all Libyan attempts reached an impasse because of these states' rigidity. With the adoption of Security Council Resolution 833 stepping up sanctions against Libya these states have closed the door to the possibility of trying the Libyan suspects outside Libya, even if these states use the atomic bomb against us. We

have offered enough, and thousands of our people are dying because of the unjust sanctions, yet we are willing to endure this for another 100 years.

The adoption of Resolution 833 has completely ended the policy of flexibility, appeasement, and compromises. It was announced that the two suspects will be tried in Libya, and anyone who has any evidence can come and submit it to us and will be able to help him. We will not fear a blockade or the cutting off of oil [supplies]. The Libyan people have lived without oil all their lives and we fought Italy 30 years and lived without oil from 1951 to 1961. We were the poorest Arab people and are willing to become the poorest Arab people again, but we will be a people with dignity. We will not pay any attention to what emanates from the three Western states or the Security Council. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqqiyy] Do you intend to withdraw from the United Nations, suspend your membership in it, or refuse to meet your financial obligations to the international organization as a result of Resolution 833?

[Al-Bishari] The United Nations belongs to no one; it belongs to all peoples of the earth and our membership of it will remain. We are not going to suspend our membership, nor are we going to withdraw from it. It is a joint-stock company in which all states are entitled to participate. We will not refuse to meet our financial obligations, as we are not in dispute with the United Nations. We will participate effectively in all its activities. But we are not going to accept the policy of diktat, warnings, and threats. Libya is part of this world and any attempts to hit it from outside or inside will fail. We will deal with the world through mutual respect and common interests. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqqiyy] Does Libya intend to deport Arab workers from Libya if the Arab states comply with the resolutions of so-called international legitimacy?

[Al-Bishari] Arab workers' conditions are Libyans' conditions. If Libyans are harmed, everyone will be harmed. As for other workers—Thai, Filipino, and foreign workers in general—they will be deported. And a decision has actually been made to deport 10,000 Thai workers because of what the Thai Government announced, namely that its workers work in the chemical weapons sphere. They will have to request the United States to employ them.

[Al-Faqqiyy] There are numerous calls to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel, and some Arab states are being subjected to pressures in this connection from Western states. Can a move be made at present to end the boycott in the framework of the measures to build trust?

[Al-Bishari] It is shameful for us to talk about ending the Arab boycott of Israel while all Arab states continue to boycott Libya, fearing to send their planes to Libyan

airports or receive Libyan planes. And how can the Arab boycott of Israel be lifted when there are Arab calls for continuing the boycott of Iraq. Besides, Israel itself has not taken tangible steps to return the Arab territories occupied by it. [passage omitted]

JANA Editor Claims Evidence of U.S. Election 'Rigging'

*LD2311112393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Nov (JANA)—The Voice of America recently broadcast a commentary which it said reflected the U.S. Government's views and which began by attacking the brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhafi] personally. JANA's political editor responds:

Since the U.S. Government is responsible for what was said in the commentary, which began by talking about the brother leader of the revolution—who is not in power; he is not a president, a ruler, nor a dictator, because authority in Libya belongs to the people who exercise it through a system that is unique in the world, the Jamahiri system based on people's congresses which make decisions and people's committees which implement them—and as you started this, we shall talk about your President.

Although we doubt that U.S. President Clinton was aware of what was said in the commentary, due to the persistence of that kind of tone we are forced to talk directly about the U.S. regime and the U.S. President personally. We have in our possession documents, information, and recordings which concern the rigging of elections in the United States and the money and bribes paid during it. We are also aware of the way by which the U.S. President was able to win the presidential elections.

The political editor adds: We are confident that the information would cause an earthquake in the United States if we were to publish it. So, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Durdah, DPRK Official Discuss Economic Relations

*LD2211162993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyyah Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Nov 93*

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee [Umar Durdah] today met with Yi Song-Tae, chairman of DPRK External Economic Affairs Commission, who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyyah to attend the meetings of the Joint Libyan Arab-North Korean Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

During their meeting they reviewed and discussed the strengthening of economic relations between the two friendly countries.

Bahrain**Egypt's Musa Visits for Joint Committee Session****Delivers Mubarak Message to Amir**

JN2011102693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a verbal message from Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, dealing with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering joint cooperation in various fields.

The message also deals with developments in the Middle East peace process, in addition to a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

The message was conveyed by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at a meeting with the amir of Bahrain in Manama this morning, in the presence of Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Committee Begins Meeting

JN2011115893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Manama, 20 Nov (WAKH)—The Bahraini-Egyptian Joint Committee held a meeting here this morning. The Bahraini side was led by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Bahraini foreign minister delivered a speech in which he said that Egypt, through its central position in the Arab area and in its capacity as the place where the joint Arab action takes place, stands as a force that entrenches stability and Arab solidarity in the Gulf region and the greater Arab world in general in face of various developments and crises that the Arab region has passed through over the past two decades.

He said: There will be no just and comprehensive peace or a solid development in the region without the restoration of Arab solidarity so that the Arabs will contribute to building the new regional order with the neighboring forces, the concerned parties, and various international powers. [passage omitted]

'Amr Musa also delivered a speech in which he said: We are entering a new age that necessitates new moves and activities [words indistinct] and open minds, because at a time when we speak about Arab-Israeli peace, an Arab-Arab peace should prevail. We have to work according to new sound bases and enlightened economic principles through which our Arab peoples can benefit from our joint capabilities. [passage omitted]

Musa Holds News Conference

JN2111175493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT
21 Nov 93

[Text] Manama, 21 Nov (WAKH)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said he is optimistic about prospects for trade and economic relations between Egypt and Bahrain. He cited the positive spirit shown by the two sides during the meetings of the joint Bahraini-Egyptian Economic Committee, indicating they focused on how to implement their agreements.

Musa said the joint committee will reconvene in six months to assess the progress it has made, indicating both sides agree on the way forward.

Speaking at a news conference in Manama today, the Egyptian minister said the security of the Gulf region and that of the Middle East are intertwined. He stressed the need to develop sound foundations for an Arab security concept. The Middle East peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli accord, he added, must be seen in this light.

He announced that a meeting of the signatories to the Damascus Declaration will be held in the next few weeks to review the progress of the declaration and areas of cooperation among the eight countries. The Egyptian foreign minister emphasized the need to activate the Damascus Declaration and hoped this would take place soon.

Musa described the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as highly important, noting that they will produce a first: Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory. He called Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming arrival in the occupied land and the Palestinian self-rule historic developments.

Asked about the Arab boycott of Israel, Musa said the Arab capitals view the practice from different angles. While the boycott issue must be addressed, he said, the Syrian-Israeli, Jordanian-Israeli, and Lebanese-Israeli tracks take precedence. Priority must also be given to such important issues as withdrawal, settlements, refugees, and the Palestinian self-rule, the Egyptian minister said.

Musa reiterated his country's support for the Syrian position on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, stressing the need for a total Israeli pullout from the Golan, as happened in Sinai.

Asked about Cairo's effort to counter international sanctions against Libya, the minister said that Egypt had done all it could to resolve the crisis. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had exerted himself to reconcile the requirements of international legitimacy and the Libyan people's interests, Musa added.

On the negative effects of the Gulf crisis that continue to haunt intra-Arab ties, Musa announced that there are behind-the-scenes Arab contacts to mend Arab fences.

He said a meaningful degree of Arab solidarity must go hand in hand with an Arab-Israeli settlement.

On recent developments in Yemen, Musa said he hoped the country's leadership would find a way out of the crisis and enhance the Yemeni people's security and unity.

Asked about a world trend toward regional economic blocs, Musa noted that the arms race has now given way to economic competition. He pointed to a set of ongoing economic negotiations; specifically the GATT, the North American Free Trade Association Agreement, and the Maastricht Treaty. Musa emphasized the economic weight of the Middle East region in global terms [words indistinct] the future of the Arab economy to keep pace with world developments.

Kuwait

Envoy to UN Discusses Iraqi, Iranian Moves

NC2111140693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, permanent representative to the United Nations, in New York, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Mr. Ambassador, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-al-Hasan] Thank you to the Voice of the Arabs and to the fraternal Egyptian people.

[Husayn] In a surprising development, some 350 Iraqi soldiers crossed the international border into Kuwait a few days ago. There has been wide-scale reaction to this act. Can you explain the dimensions and political objectives of this attempt?

[Abu-al-Hasan] Since its retreat from Kuwaiti territory, the Iraqi regime has failed to respect its obligations under its full and unconditional acceptance of Security Council Resolution 687. In the first, second, and third operative paragraphs, the resolution calls for respecting Kuwait's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. The resolution also sets up an international committee to demarcate the border and considers the committee's decisions final and guaranteed by the Security Council.

The demonstration, which the Iraqi Government called a farmers demonstration, was organized by the Iraqi authorities. It included people from the Iraqi Army, intelligence, and police in civilian clothes. They entered Kuwaiti territory in broad daylight despite the warnings of the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] under the pretext that they were protesting the digging of a trench inside Kuwaiti territory. The building of this defense trench falls within Kuwait's sovereignty, and twice last month the Security Council warned the

Iraqi Government against encroaching upon this legitimate action on Kuwaiti territory.

As usual, the timing of the demonstration did not serve the interests of the planners. It was staged only one day before the Security Council was scheduled to discuss the extent of Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions. From the first moment, the Council could not but determine that Iraq is in an obvious and flagrant breach of the resolutions; it used the incident as one of the most prominent pieces of evidence to prove such a violation. The Security Council decided to maintain the sanctions against Iraq for the next two months.

[Husayn] The Gulf region is currently experiencing some tension. Iran has announced that it will build some projects on Abu Musa island. Iraq has carried out provocative acts. How does Kuwait view the concept of security in the Gulf region, especially as a meeting of the defense ministers of the six Gulf states was held recently and a Gulf summit will be held in Riyadh next month?

[Abu-al-Hasan] Kuwait pays special attention to developments in the Gulf region. As long as the present Iraqi regime continues to rule and as long as this regime has the military strength and the political desire to cause harm to neighboring countries, unilateral or collective defensive measures among the Gulf states must be strengthened. At the same time, we are not satisfied with the increasing Iranian armament, especially as the problem of the United Arab Emirates' islands has not been solved. Despite the difference between the two threats—the Iraqi regime's threat and the Iranian threat represented by Iran's armament and its continued occupation of the three islands—they both require the Arab Gulf states to take security seriously. Each state must strengthen its defenses unilaterally or collectively through the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The GCC defense ministers held an important meeting last week and agreed on establishing an early warning system and on steps for unifying their armies, creating a central command, and expanding the so-called Peninsula Shield.

[Husayn] However, there is some criticism that Kuwait has concluded agreements with Western states without reaching any such agreements with Arab states. What is your answer?

[Abu-al-Hasan] Kuwait's situation is very delicate. As I have stated, the Iraqi threat is continuous and requires the freedom to make agreements with military powers to deter the Iraqi aggression. Therefore, Kuwait's agreements with the United States, Britain, France, and Russia are within this framework. The signing of the Damascus Declaration in the first months following Kuwait's liberation was the collective framework for defense. In other words, the international link is indispensable just as the Damascus Declaration link is indispensable. The basis of the Damascus Declaration is the Peninsula Shield link. The aim is to ensure that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is not repeated. We are eager

to benefit from these agreements. Kuwait believes that if we cannot implement the Damascus Declaration collectively, we should not abandon it unilaterally. Consequently, within the framework of defensive operations, it was agreed that the Gulf Cooperation Council states should have absolute freedom to hold special agreements and to benefit from the Egyptian and Syrian military power.

Oil Minister To Visit South Africa After OPEC Meeting

LD2211143193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Nov—Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli left for Vienna today to head the Kuwaiti delegation taking part in the OPEC meeting which will begin in Vienna, tomorrow. At the end of OPEC meeting, the minister will visit Hungary and South Africa. The visit to South Africa will be the first since the Kuwaiti cabinet stopped the implementation of the boycott of South Africa yesterday.

In South Africa, the Kuwaiti minister will attend an oil conference in Capetown at the end of the month. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

U.S.-Israel Arms Deal Seen as 'Reward' for Accord

PM2311123893 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace... and Arms!!"]

[Text] 'Arafat was not embarrassed when he condemned the murder in the occupied territories of a Zionist settler by a Palestinian group, since murder, terrorism, and kidnapping are impractical and inhumane methods of resolving political and military crises. And perhaps 'Arafat adopted this position as a tactical position to dissociate Palestinian organizations from terrorism. Israel's reply to any stone thrown at an Israeli has been to fire shots against the resistance children. But it seems that the condemnation is announced by the Palestinian alone, because while he is the stronger in a field confrontation, he is the weaker in the political and media domain—which may be an excuse for 'Arafat's condemnation or an attempt to eliminate the concept of the old solutions with regard to peace.

But the picture remains reversed, as the signing of the declaration of principles has not stopped the clashes between the Israelis and the Palestinians—something which was taken into account when the signing took place. But Israel has offered no condemnation or regret for the murder of any Palestinian, even by accident, because it knows that that would change the media and political equation portraying the Arabs, even after the accords were signed, as criminals and murderers—which

means it continues to adopt the same position, even when there is the utmost accord with the Palestinians.

The other thing which perhaps raises more questions than answers is that Rabin's visit to the United States has yielded an advanced arms deal, aid, and a "super-computer" which allies like Britain, for example, do not get, in addition to other promises to make Israel the absolute power in the face of the Arabs—which conflicts with the essence of arms control in the region, unless this is meant to be one of the pressures on the Arab states which have not signed a peace deal bill, or an advance reward for the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles in the form of advanced weapons and highly sophisticated equipment for Israel alone.

The region is going through a phase of doubt, and conviction is not governed by emotions or pressures. That is, if we realize that the picture of peace is still cloudy, except with regard to Israel, which has gained its first profit and knows how to get gains from both the Arab and international parties.

If we say that 'Arafat has moved forward and does not want to backtrack and that he is faced with the dilemma of the uncovering of espionage in his own office, provoking numerous questions and suspicions, in addition to the sharp opposition, the picture of peace has become distorted, because whatever the Palestinians' ideas, demands, and dangers, peace remains the more positive option, but a peace involving mutual respect and non-acceptance of insults. It is a crucial, indeed difficult, phase, not only for the Palestinians, but all Arabs.

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's Musa Stops Over, Meets Counterpart

NC1911204293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that during his meeting with United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, they discussed Egyptian-UAE ties, the situation in the Arab world, and the regional peace process.

In his remarks after the meeting, Musa said they also discussed developments in Somalia, taking into account the fact that Egypt, the UAE, and other Arab countries have forces stationed in that country. He referred to the rapid pace of events in Somalia, especially since the U.S. decision to withdraw from the country at the end of March 1994. Musa said this development makes it necessary to discuss such developments.

Commenting on the results of the meeting of the OAU summit bureau in the Ethiopian capital yesterday, Musa said they agreed to form the central apparatus of the African mechanism for resolving conflicts, OAU-UN coordination on Somalia, the implementation of UN

resolutions pertaining to that country, and carrying out the national reconciliation process there according to the OAU resolutions.

Commenting on the peace process, the foreign minister emphasized that it has not foundered, but is proceeding well. He said that there is hope for progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, noting that results will be apparent soon.

Referring to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region, 'Amr Musa announced that its most important aspect will deal with the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track.

Asked about the U.S. arms deal with Israel and whether it promotes the cause of peace, Musa said that, first of all, there is no arms deal. He added: I have already commented on Israel's wish to achieve military superiority. I am urging a balance of power. We live in an age of peace, not superiority.

Concerning Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said he hopes that they will revert to normal, particularly because Egypt and Sudan are two fraternal countries that are able to surmount any difficulties they face.

On the Damascus Declaration, he remarked that preparations are underway for a meeting of the signatory countries. He emphasized that Arab security is an issue of concern to all Arab countries.

'Amr Musa made a stopover in Abu Dhabi this evening on his way from Addis Ababa to Manama, where he will chair the Egyptian delegation to the meeting of the Egyptian-Bahraini joint committee that will begin on 20 November.

Eritrea's Afewerki Meets With President

JN2011210993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met in Abu Dhabi today with Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki, who is currently visiting the UAE.

The Emirates news agency said discussions dealt with a number of issues of joint interest, including the situation in the Gulf and (?the region), current developments in [words indistinct], bilateral relations, and ways of promoting bilateral cooperation.

Departs 22 Nov

JN2211111793 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio
Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki left the country this afternoon following a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Accepts Broader Talks on North-South Crisis

NC2311072393 Paris AFP in English 0308 GMT 23
Nov 93

[Text] Manama, Nov 23 (AFP)—President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih agreed Monday [22 November] to demands by his erstwhile Marxist vice-president 'Ali Salim al-Bid for broader talks to resolve the enduring feud between northerners and southerners in reunified Yemen.

After a political crisis lasting nearly four months, the president's General People's Congress (GPC) accepted a proposal from al-Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) to bring in labour leaders, professionals and various personalities from north and south into the discussions.

The breakthrough came at a meeting Monday in Sanaa grouping the three parties of the ruling coalition, namely, the GPC, the YSP and the Islamic al-Islah party and representatives of four opposition parties.

GPC sources contacted from Manama said Salih had agreed to let some 60 personalities join in the talks to patch up the quarrel which is tearing the country apart only three and a half years after North and South Yemen were reunified.

A first round of "enlarged" talks could take place in Sanaa as early as Thursday, the sources said.

Among the personalities to be invited is 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, a former president of the formerly communist South Yemen. He was overthrown in January 1986 and currently lives in Damascus. Marshal 'Abdallah al-Salah the first president of North Yemen is another.

Meanwhile, Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, the chairman of a military committee charged by parliament with halting troop movements in the country, said Monday that he had completed his mission.

"All units have gone back to barracks and all military checkpoints recently set up have been dismantled," he said.

The return of troops to barracks and an enlargement of settlement talks were two of the conditions put by the vice-president for returning to Sanaa from Aden where he has been holed up since the crisis blew up on August 19.

On Monday al-Bid was visited by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes who gave him a message from Washington calling for a peaceful and democratic settlement to the political crisis. On Saturday, Hughes delivered a similar message to the president.

Al-Bid has called for in-depth economic reforms including decentralisation and has complained of violence against members of the YSP.

Regional loyalties are strong in Yemen and the armies of the two former rival states have never been merged into a single national army since reunification in May 1990.

Vice President Receives U.S. Ambassador, Message

JN2211203993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, today received U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes in Aden. The ambassador relayed to the vice president a message from the U.S. Administration concerning bilateral ties and issues of concern to the two friendly countries.

The ambassador voiced the concern of the United States about seeing an end to the crisis in our country and a resolution of political differences through peaceful, democratic dialogue in a way that entrenches the march of unity and democracy and helps expand popular participation on the path of building the modern Yemeni state, the state of law, order, and institutions, stressing the need to strengthen political and social stability and guaranteeing the march of national construction in our country.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman, voiced his appreciation for the position expressed by the U.S. Administration's statement on the current crisis in our country. He valued the U.S. Administration's efforts to help Yemen overcome its difficulties and its concern in seeing our country overcome the crisis through peaceful dialogue that helps the march of democracy and strengthens stability in the region.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid praised the level of relations between our country and the United States, stressing concern for developing and strengthening these relations to serve the mutual interests of the two friendly countries and to open new horizons that foster ties of friendship and cooperation on the path of goodness, progress, and development.

Officer Assassinated; Parties Issue Joint Statement

JN2211213093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] have denounced in a statement issued today the treacherous attack which resulted in the martyrdom of Major Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami, commissioner of the al-Hazm district in the al-Jawf Governorate. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord. [Koranic verse]

The GPC General Committee, the YSP Political Bureau, and the YRG Higher Council announce the martyrdom of Maj. Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami, commissioner of the al-Hazm district in the al-Jawf Governorate and member of the GPC, who was martyred in Sanaa when the bullets of treason and resentment were fired at him today.

As the General Committee, the Political Bureau, and the Higher Council announce the death of this brave martyr, who recorded shining pages in patriotism and dedication, they condemn this criminal act which aims at spreading alarm and fear through targeting the honest elements among the defenders of the homeland. They also affirm that such crimes will not prevent our people from continuing the march to entrench the pillars of Yemeni unity and democratic option.

We call on the security organs to expeditiously arrest the culprits and to bring them to justice to be punished.

We also offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of the martyr asking Almighty God to bestow his mercy and forgiveness and to grant his family patience.

From God we came and unto him we shall return.

[Dated] Sanaa on 22 November 1993

[Signed] The GPC General Committee, the YSP Political Bureau, and the YRG Higher Council

Maj. Ahmad Muhammad al-Shami was martyred at 0930 today, Monday [22 November], in the al-Mithaq Street near the Local Administration Ministry in the city of Sanaa. He was accompanied by Major Ahmad Muhammad al-Ahjuri on their way to the Local Administration Ministry. Al-Shami was martyred while the other officer was not injured.

This took place when three armed men who were in a small truck without a license plate attacked the martyr's vehicle, which was near another vehicle that was also without a license plate and in which there were three armed men. The other vehicle was monitoring the movement of the martyr's vehicle.

The interior minister expressed his heartfelt condolence and that of the ministry management staff and employees to the family and relatives of the martyr, asking Almighty God to grant his family and relatives patience and consolation. From God we came and unto Him we shall return.

The brother minister appealed to the chieftains and sage men of the al-Jawf to cooperate with the security organs in the area to pursue and arrest the suspects to bring them to trial. He also warned that those who hide and shelter the suspects will be subject to legal punishments.

**Units in Aden Exercise Confront 'Invasion'
During Exercise**

*PM2311095193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Nov
93 pp 1, 4*

[Reports by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "Aden: Military Units Held Mountain Exercises on Confronting 'Invasion'"]

[Excerpt] Military forces in the southern and eastern governorates, which are controlled by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], have placed all their units and camps "on a state of full alert."

Responsible military sources in Aden said yesterday that "the state of readiness at all military units in the south began last Thursday on the instructions of higher authorities." The sources declined to say who gave the orders, but a number of officers said that they came from "the YSP, of which members of the southern armed forces are consider to be members."

Inhabitants of Kraytar in Aden yesterday morning saw "military units roaming the town's mountains with their machine guns, which terrified the people, but there was a sigh of relief at noon when the armed groups left the mountains." Explaining what had happened, military officials said that "what happened was a kind of exercise for the forces on defending the town in the event of a military invasion." The officials did not say "who was expected to invade."

As regards the activities of the northern forces deployed in the southern and eastern governorates, they have moved to their camps but remain on the same state of alert as the southern forces.

Some military sources have told AL-HAYAH that "the continued presence of the Yemeni Armed Forces threatens an explosion." [passage omitted]

**House, Cabinet Committee Meets, Plans Media
Monitoring**

*JN2211205593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Nov 93*

[Text] The joint committee established by the House of Representatives and the Council of Ministers held its second meeting tonight under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, House of Representatives speaker, and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

The committee discussed preliminary reports on the outcome of the work of the military committee set up by the House of Representatives and the Council of Ministers and what it has successfully achieved in the first phase. It praised the cooperation displayed by the Armed Forces and the concerned parties and their compliance with the House of Representatives' instructions and the Cabinet's decisions.

The reports say that in the first phase, the two committees managed to calm the situation on the military level. The joint committee praised the major efforts made by the brother members of the military and parliamentary committees in this regard. It valued what has been achieved thus far.

On the media level, the committee noted the continued negative performance by the party papers and the incorrect information that is being leaked to the foreign press, voicing its regret for that conduct. The committee decided to set up a joint media team to help the committee monitor the performance of the media agencies and the press.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee expressed the hope that these papers will abide by the House of Representatives' instructions and the Cabinet's decision to help clear the atmosphere and pave the way for a serious and responsible national dialogue.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets UN Secretary General in New York*JN2211213793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Nov 93*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today met with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in New York. The one-hour meeting was attended for Iraq by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations; and for the United Nations by the secretary general's senior political adviser (?and) Mar-rack Goulding, under secretary general for (?special political affairs).

The secretary general's spokesperson said the two parties discussed viewpoints on all standing problems concerning Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions. Tariq 'Aziz said: We have expressed our government's readiness and desire in building confidence between the United Nations and Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz today held a series of meetings with senior UN officials and Security Council members.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York has reported that the deputy prime minister today met with this month's president of the Security Council, Cape Verde's Ambassador Jose Luis Jesus. The 45-minute meeting was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations.

Meetings With Envoys, Butrus-Ghali Detailed*JN2311155693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Nov 93*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday received separately two UN Security Council ambassadors at the residence of the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations.

The deputy prime minister received Moroccan Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi. He later received British Ambassador David Hannay. Morocco is a nonpermanent member of the Security Council while Britain is a permanent member. The meeting with the British ambassador lasted for 90 minutes. The deputy prime minister will continue his meetings with ambassadors of all Security Council member states today.

Cape Verde's ambassador, the current president of the UN Security Council, has said that Iraq is prepared to cooperate on the standing issues concerning its dispute with the United Nations, but is demanding a positive UN position in return. Following his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in New York, Cape Verde's ambassador added that Iraq wishes to continue a positive dialogue with the United Nations. He said that Tariq 'Aziz voiced readiness to cooperate, but, Cape

Verde's ambassador added, he wishes to see a reciprocity, especially in seeing the UN Security Council giving a positive answer to Iraq's cooperation.

'Aziz met yesterday, Monday, with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Ghali's spokesman, (Hosias), said 'Aziz voiced his country's determination to establish confidence between the United Nations and Iraq and that the secretary general expressed satisfaction with this attitude.

Diplomatic sources clarified that Iraq wishes to obtain a specific commitment from the UN Security Council as regards the lifting of the embargo imposed on its oil exports before it officially accepts long-term UN monitoring of its capability to produce weapons of mass destruction.

The UN Security Council president said: I believe that Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions will undoubtedly influence the UN Security Council members, who will interpret in a more positive way the reply that must be given. He added that he discussed with Tariq 'Aziz last week's protests by Iraqi farmers in the Safwan and Umm Qasr areas. 'Aziz said these things normally happen when people lose their property.

Oil Minister Confirms Participation in OPEC Conference*JN1911173693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 93*

[Text] Iraq will take part in the 95th session of the OPEC ministerial conference, due to open in Vienna, Austria, on 23 November.

In a statement to INA, Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad said the OPEC ministerial conference will address several issues, including world oil market developments in the aftermath of the extraordinary ministerial conference late last September.

He added that the low prices being witnessed by the world oil market and the deterioration of OPEC members' oil revenues are the result of the embargo imposed on Iraq. He said Iraq warned all concerned OPEC parties about the dangers of the deterioration of oil prices, since this serves no one. Producers and consumers alike are harmed by the process. Developments in the world oil market proved Iraq was right when the price of oil reached levels that are no longer acceptable, even to the oil-importing countries.

Saddam Husayn Receives Chechen President 22 Nov*JN2211125493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Nov 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has received Dzhokhar Musa Dudaev, president of the Chechens.

Dudayev arrived in Iraq on 20 November to visit the holy shrines.

The meeting was attended by Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, and 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of religious affairs.

Yesterday, Dzhokhar Musa Dudayev visited the shrines of Musa al-Kazim, Abu-Hanifah al-Nu'man, and 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Kilani. Dudayev was accompanied by the minister of religious affairs.

Marsh Citizens Gather, Voice Support for Saddam
JN2111213493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT
21 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—The citizens of the marshlands in al-Basrah Governorate, 549 km south of Baghdad, have denounced the suspected Iranian allegations, as well as Tehran rulers' hostile policy and their continued encroachment on the good neighborly relations with Iraq. They asserted during their spontaneous popular gatherings today that Iranian and Western media propaganda is aimed at harming Iraq's sovereignty and fragmenting its national unity, which the glorious Iraqis epitomize by rallying around the God is great banner carried by President Saddam Husayn.

All the citizens of the marshlands without exception took to the streets, carrying Iraqi flags and President Saddam Husayn's pictures. They chanted slogans in support of President Saddam Husayn and denounced the international Zionist conspiracy [words indistinct] and harm the honorable life the citizens of the marshes enjoy because of President Saddam Husayn's great care for them.

The citizens of the marshes scoffed at the lies hostile radio stations are spreading against the free people of the marshes, who are standing proudly and bravely behind the unique historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn. They asserted that they would confront all the traitors, renegades, and hirelings, who are infiltrating the border to carry out their cowardly crimes.

In response to the suspected lies, the students, who organized the spontaneous demonstration in which their fathers and grandfathers took part, raised President Saddam Husayn's pictures, and chanted: "The people of Saddam will never be humiliated."

They scoffed at agent al-Sabah family's desperate attempts to harm Iraq's sovereignty, security, and independence and to carry out cowardly actions to destroy citizens' property and seize their farms and houses.

The demonstrators stressed their readiness to confront any cowardly attempts by the agents, to defend the homeland, and to offer their lives for its sake.

Anti-Saddam Radio Reports Execution of Coupists
NC2011194393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic
Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The human rights publication MIDDLE EAST WATCH last Thursday [18 November] carried a report revealing that the government of Tyrant Saddam summoned the relatives of some individuals who had been detained on charges of participation in the recent coup attempt, promising them that they would see the detainees. Arriving for the appointment, however, the relatives were handed the bodies of the detainees in question. Torture marks were visible on the corpses, as well as a single shot to the head, just behind the right ear.

The authorities told the relatives to bury their dead quietly, forbidding them to hold funerals or spread word of the executions.

The executed individuals were: Jasim Mawlud Mukhlis, lawyer and former Iraqi ambassador; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim Hani, minister of labor and social affairs under 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Arif; Saqr Mawlud Mukhlis, brother of Jasim; Bashir al-Talib, a retired Colonel from a well-known family in the Ninawa Governorate; and Raghib Tikriti, military physician, head of the Iraqi Physicians Association, and director of a military hospital. Death certificates were issued for the executed men. The cause of death given: Heart attack.

Bank Officials Arrested, Blamed for Economy
NC2011200993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Dispatch by correspondent Mohammad Pishkar from Beirut]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Arrivals from Baghdad speak of the execution of military men and civilians suspected of involvement in a coup attempt in August.

Press reports in Beirut today cite people who arrived here from Baghdad a few days ago as saying that Iraqi authorities have arrested many people suspected of opposition to the regime and staged sweeps to search for arms in Baghdad and in the suburbs of Al-Thawrah, al-Bayya', and al-Shu'lah.

According to the travelers, relatives of the military men and civilians who were executed have received about 40 bodies of executed men.

The press reports indicate that the Iraqi authorities arrested Iraqi Central Bank Governor Hafiz al-Takmaji and several of the bank's top officials, accusing them of responsibility for the collapse of the national currency.

In another development, a senior U.S. official today said that Iraq has expressed to Washington its desire to make peace [iqamat sulh] with the Zionist enemy. Last month,

the Zionist paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT spoke of ongoing Israeli-Iraqi exchanges in this regard.

Central Bank To Permit Cash Foreign Currency Brokerage

JN2011150993 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic
16 Nov p 5

[By Sadiq Jabr]

[Text] Iraq's Central Bank will consider applications by limited companies to engage in brokerage: dealings in foreign currency and money transfers.

According to a Central Bank official, the matter is being coordinated with the company registration department at the Ministry of Trade in light of the applications submitted to the department by prospective brokers. Those who passed the test have been nominated to engage in brokerage.

He made it clear that the Central Bank will grant them licenses to act as brokers to buy and sell foreign currency after they complete the required legal startup procedures.

He emphasized that the brokerage does not mean that companies can keep foreign currency for themselves. They can, however, service customer requirements according to the law of supply and demand and without influencing various economic activities. But, in their business they must avoid going beyond 100 percent of capital in order to enable the company to legally act as a broker.

Companies dealings will, for the time being, be restricted to cash dealings in foreign currencies, due to the unjust sanctions.

The source called on company directors to show more cooperation in order to meet the goal behind their establishment. For its part, the Central Bank will cooperate with these companies to help them conduct their business.

Fall in Dinar, Trade in Dollars Blamed on 'Parasites'

JN1911135193 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic: 14 Nov 93 p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by Faruq Jasim al-Azzawi: "The Dollar and the Crisis of Morality"]

[Text] Like other foreign currencies, the dollar attracts the state's attention and prompts it to save it because of its importance in striking deals and obtaining foreign contracts to ensure the influx of foodstuffs for the entire population under all circumstances. The currency reserve is subject to various circumstances that affect its accumulation or depletion. Under the economic blockade, and the challenges that restrict the freedom of the Iraqi economy and the accumulation of currency through the export of oil and other goods, our reserves of these currencies have been depleted. These currencies

are needed to make available things that we cannot produce. This prompted the state to enter into the local market to meet the needs represented by the ration cards (\$90-\$100 million.) State employees are not aware of the commercial methods for probing the state of the market and they bought dollars at prices that exceed the market rates. This has helped open the door for the merchants and parasites to speculate on currency prices, thus harming the value of the national currency to the extent of sabotage.

The currency market has followed a dollar value that has been affected by its rising and falling cost based on a series of lies and deceptions to justify stands that are counter to the national and moral sense that they [merchants] are supposed to have.

Surprisingly, the market chaos is not based on economic causes that affect the exchange rate. They [speculators] create rumors to maintain the high rate of the dollar and try to tempt people to harm the national currency by saying that the guarantee for your present and future is the U.S. dollar. They join the ranks of the enemies to harm the country by inducing sellers of foodstuffs to rely on the U.S. dollar. They attack the limited income group with the help of the Trade Ministry price lists. The ministry buys foodstuffs at rates that benefit the merchants and provide incentives to them, but which constitute a burden to the citizen because the Ministry rates are made the basis for food prices that are justified by the Ministry and the dollar.

The dollar has become the subject of discussion in dealings between the seller and the citizen, ranging from milkmaids to sellers of timber and iron. We may try to make the merchants understand the importance of the dollar, but how important will this be to the retailer who buys one kg of sugar for 40 dinars and sell at for 80 dinars? Is this the dollar also?

The merchants import various goods after paying the cost in advance. If the dollar slumps, they raise a hue and cry because they have paid a high cost for the dollar, and if the dollar drops they say that they have not paid yet. They change their color as the dollar rates change. They have no morals. Fain would they deceive Allah and those who believe, but they only deceive themselves and realize it not. [koranic verse]

They agree to sell and they change colors with the changes of the dollar, going back on their word and riding the dollar wave to gain more money.

Moreover, they monopolize the dollar market by withdrawing great amounts that will raise the dollar prices. They control the supply and demand law by using their influence in all markets. It is regrettable that if one wishes an end to the blockade on our beloved homeland, they turn their faces away as if their source of livelihood has been attacked. Is this a dollar stock market or a moral stock market? Isn't this your country from whose breast you fed? Why do you bite the breast that nursed you?

It is necessary to conduct a careful study of the money market and devise a means to lessen the control of the merchants and parasites without the interference of the Economic Security [Department] and its herculean whims, whose aims are much in doubt.

A study of the value and cost of imported goods and activating the Trade Ministry role in importing activities as a competitor in the local market by selling goods at cost, aiming at low marginal profits, will create an atmosphere of competition that will benefit the citizen. It is unreasonable not to have someone who is able to deal and discuss with the sources of imports while many are actively searching Amman [as published] looking for the better and most profitable.

Little incentives, free of the restrictions on official performance, will also create good results.

Words are not as good as deeds and we need a comprehensive study of the local market to come up with practical results that will stem the control exercised by the markets of al-Shurjah, al-Bab al-Sharqi, al-Ma'arid, al-Safafir, and al-Aqmishah on the fate of the national currency. From God we seek support.

'Udayy, Economists Criticize State Measures

JN2111122393

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 10 November publishes on pages 5-7 an approximately 12,000-word report on "the details of the expanded economic symposium held on 9 November to discuss the reasons for the increase in the [U.S.] dollar exchange rate." The symposium, which was chaired by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the BABIL Board of Directors, was attended by a number of Iraqi economists and experts in government departments and universities.

At the beginning of the symposium, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn explains the reasons behind the increase in the dollar exchange rate. He says: "Brothers, there are two reasons for this. The first is related to the issue of stability. The government has lifted taxes on some commodities and allowed the importation of other commodities." He adds that this means that the merchants' demand for dollars will increase in order to import commodities and make high profits. He adds: "The other reason is that leader Saddam Husayn did not supervise this process personally. Neither his excellency nor the Presidential Office supervised this process. He left the Council of Ministers to act on its own." 'Udayy then asks the participants in the symposium to express their opinions freely and to discuss the various related issues.

Turning to the issue of the stock exchange, 'Udayy says that we do not want a "fragile" stock exchange "to increase the money of Mr. so-and-so and reduce the money of Mr. so-and-so." He says that the stock exchange should be left to play its game in order to absorb the liquidity.

'Udayy then says that instead of raising salaries it would have been better to subsidize food stuff in order to achieve "a mechanism of stability which needs accurate and high-level management." He adds that "any imbalance in the economic market will achieve for the enemy political goals which he failed to achieve by force and through the blockade."

Dr. Hamid al-Jumayli, head of the Economy Department at the University of Baghdad, says that the increasing demand for dollars is one of the most important reasons behind the increase in the dollar exchange rate, adding that the recent economic measures have increased the demand for dollars. He then says that speculations will absorb the dollars in the Iraqi market which could have been used to organize commodities in the market. He adds that the recent measures are "partial" because they have not dealt with the Iraqi economy as a whole. He says that we have called for "a national program" in order to strengthen the Iraqi economy in the face of the blockade. He adds that the imbalances will continue in the Iraqi economy as long as partial measures are taken.

Al-Jumayli then says: "I frankly say that the Central Bank has not played an effective role in adopting clear monetary measures. We have not seen a clear and definite monetary policy to help the Iraqi economy overcome the obstacles facing it as a result of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq." He then calls for government intervention to tighten the control over the Iraqi economy through ending speculations and curbing the effects of inflation.

Dr. Hammam al-Shamma', professor at the Administration and Economy Faculty at the University of Baghdad, says that the border closure following the withdrawal from the market of the 25-dinar banknote weakened confidence in the Iraqi dinar in Jordan. He proposes that the Industry Ministry reorganize and modernize its institutions because the purchases of the Industry Ministry and the Military Industrialization Organizations are the most important factor in the demand for hard currency. With regard to the manpower in these institutions which could be terminated, it could be used in agricultural activities. Al-Shamma' also calls for an end to housing construction, rationalizing expenditures, and reorganizing the "corrupt" taxation apparatus through reviewing legislations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif Humaym, director of the Islamic Bank, suggests that a committee be formed at the end of the symposium to define problems and solutions. He then reviews the economic problem and calls for increasing national production through studied plans.

Speaking once again, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn says that taxation is the basis of the state policy and if we want to change anything in it, then we should know how to do it, and how to do it carefully. He then says that "they hold inflation to be the cause of the weakness and confusion in state departments' and ministries' administrative,

economic, and financial work. So, instead of solving a problem they ask for an increase in the budget. He then says that "our security organs are weak" in monitoring and controlling the "dirty people" who make speculations for secret political goals.

Dr. Mijdhah Badr, assistant to the president of the University of Baghdad, speaks about the "contradiction" between the state decision to prevent the government organs from dealing with or purchasing dollars on the one hand, and the cabinet decision increasing the list of commodities which can be imported and circulated on the other. This, he said, resulted in the increasing demand for dollars, and consequently, increased its exchange rate. Dr. Badr then calls for forming "an economic operations room" to study the Iraqi economy on a daily basis and to take the appropriate measures to tackle the cases that emerge. He also calls for reviewing the government decision to import more commodities, because most of these commodities are not justified, and for directing the economic activities to the commodity producing sectors. He adds that government intervention is necessary at this stage in the interest of low-income people. Concluding, Dr. Badr says that the Industry Ministry's tendency to sell its establishments to the citizens should be postponed to the post-siege era.

Dr. Jamal Dawud, dean of the Faculty of Administration and Economy at al-Mustansiriyah University, says that the basic cause of the drop in the purchasing power of the dinar is the "issuing of a great amount of paper money." He says that "the Zionist entity, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other hostile states that participated in the U.S. alliance in the war against Iraq resorted to buying the Iraqi dinar and circulating forged currencies in order to reduce confidence in the Iraqi dinar." Dawud adds that inflation led to more economic and social crimes, that "signs of administrative corruption appeared," and that the enemies of Iraq wagered on the economic factor to weaken Iraq. He says "the tools of the Iraqi monetary and financial policy are unsuccessful and ineffective. They have not played any basic role in resisting the blockade on Iraq." He demands that unfeasible economic projects be stopped and that investments should be guided. He concludes by saying: "we want rationalization of consumption and we must concentrate on production projects not services at least in the short term until the economic blockade is lifted."

Dr. Rasul Radi Harbi, professor of economic sciences at al-Mustansiriyah University, says that selling the public sector establishments to the private sector and the publicity given to this action has effectively raised the dollar exchange rate, adding that the citizens now tend to accumulate dollars thinking that the private sector will expand. He advises the Government to "seriously reconsider its investment policy in the field of agriculture, review the efficacy of the industrial sector, and stop or slow the process of selling the public sector establishments at present."

Dr. Amin Rashid, professor of International Economy at al-Mustansiriyah University, says that the "timing of transferring the public sector establishments to the private sector was not successful," adding that "opening a financial market and circulating currencies requires factors of success such as the need for companies and projects to perform normally in terms of normal imports and exports, and the interest rates in force."

Dr. Rashid says in conclusion: "Wiping out inflation requires numerous measures. This includes inspection of the state budget, reviewing certain points of investments and current expenditure, and concentrating on productive projects."

Dr. Taqiy 'Abd Salim al-'Ani, professor of foreign trade at al-Mustansiriyah University, maintains that the U.S. dollar is a commodity, just like any other commodity. As such, the exchange rate of the dollar is determined by supply and demand. He notes that demand on the U.S. dollar has been caused by increasing expenditure by the government, the public sector, and the private sector, not to mention the pursuit of unstable economic policies, which vacillate between bans and permissions. Elaborating on the reasons for increasing demand on the U.S. dollar, he mentions "speculation and the large number of middlemen used." He also contends that some hostile parties are carrying out deliberate operations to achieve certain economic purposes.

To remedy this situation, he proposes the launching of a principal operations room to monitor the economic situation in the country. He demands "a sort of militarization of the Iraqi economy at present." He notes that there has been great expenditure on services in the wake of the military aggression. This was justified, he says. However, he argues that it is no longer economically feasible to continue to spend money on unproductive projects, or on projects for which there are no raw materials available in the country. He also proposes the launching of bonds to absorb liquidity. These bonds could be repaid once the siege on Iraq is lifted. He says that the public is confused as to whether the Iraqi Government is for privatization, or for enhancing the role of the public sector.

Faruq Ahmad Yunus, expert at the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, argues that there can be no long-term or even medium-term remedies for the ailments plaguing the monetary situation in Iraq, because the country is currently experiencing exceptional circumstances. He demands a cutback in expenditure, because "increased expenditure exacerbates inflation, causes price hikes, and consequently increases the exchange rates of foreign currencies, namely, the U.S. dollar."

Dr. 'Ala' Shafiq, professor at Baghdad University, underscores the need for the government to draw up long-term monetary plans, and asks that real inflation figures be made accessible to researchers so that remedial action and planning could be undertaken.

Humayd Shukur Mahmud, an economic expert, affirms that "colonialist countries" have been using the economic siege to achieve the objectives they failed to achieve by war. He affirms the need for the government to meet the citizens' basic requirements of food, clothing, medicines, transport, and housing. He maintains that the government's previous efforts to maintain a stable exchange rate for the U.S. dollar have failed.

Dr. Qays Salih al-Badri, economic expert at the Presidential Office, defends the government's monetary and economic measures, describing them as part of a comprehensive policy. However, he notes that the extraordinary circumstances being experienced by Iraq, including the economic siege, which is renewed every 60 days, cannot help produce a stable exchange rate for the Iraqi dinar against the U.S. dollar. He argues that the state's becoming a purchaser of the U.S. dollar has increased the exchange rate of the dollar against the Iraqi dinar, because the government is perceived by the public to be a big purchaser of dollars from a market in which dollars are in short supply. This has increased demand on the U.S. dollar. He says that projected government expenditure in the 1993 state budget is 20 percent less than that of 1992. He commends the state's economic policy, which has managed to withstand the siege. He cites inflation rates in Hungary between World War I and World War II, as well as inflation rates in the Republic of Argentina and Mexico to conclude that Iraqi "citizens buy 60-70 percent of their requirements for few dinars." He advises specialists to be thorough and extremely careful when they discuss the relationship between increase in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar and price structures in Iraq.

Afterward, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn thanks participants for attending the symposium.

Saddam Orders Corn Prices Increase

JN2211200393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered that the purchase price of seed corn should be increased from 2,500 to 3,700 dinar per tonne, and that the purchase price of corncocks be increased from 1,800 to 3,000 dinar per tonne.

His excellency the president instructed that the new price changes will apply to those who have already turned in their crops for this season.

Saddam Husayn Inspects Work on 'Two-Tier Bridge'

JN2011180493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has inspected work at the leader's two-tier bridge. His excellency acquainted himself with the progress in implementing the final stages of this gigantic project, the only one of its kind in the world, which was designed and executed by Iraqi cadres and with purely local materials.

The leader president, may God preserve him, performed noon prayers at this site and beseeched almighty God to strengthen the Iraqis and to make the wrongdoers' plots backfire on them. He thanked God for his graces to these mujahid people in terms of victories in construction.

After touring the first tier, his excellency went up to tour the second tier. He was briefed there on the stages of the project by engineer 'Abd-al-A'immah Hassun Majid, director of the project.

The leader president stressed the need for taking time into consideration in such projects. He noted that this bridge will not be the last, God willing.

Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, then left the project site. He was seen off by the project's director, workers, and a number of officials at the Military Industrialization Organization.

Tzomet's Eytan Says Egypt Given Uranium Secrets*NC2311081693 Paris AFP in English 0734 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 23 (AFP)—Israel has made a terrible blunder by revealing to Egypt the location of uranium deposits in the Sinai peninsula, far right-wing Tzomet Party leader and ex-chief of staff Refa'el Eytan has charged.

"This present was worth far more than money," Eytan alleged in a letter sent Monday [23 November] to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and published on Tuesday.

"It pinpointed the whereabouts of one of the world's rarest metals and one which is necessary for the production of non-conventional weaponry."

The government last week gave Egypt a geological survey map drawn up at a cost of millions of dollars before the Sinai was returned to Egyptian rule in 1982.

Israel had refused to cede the map after the 1979 Camp David peace treaty with Egypt, but Rabin wanted to thank President Hosni Mubarak for his role in securing the September 13 Palestinian autonomy deal.

"When I was chief of staff the very existence of this metal in the Sinai was considered the greatest secret we had," Eytan wrote.

"The revelations free Egypt from ever having to import this metal and it can now peddle it to the highest Arab and Muslim bidder looking for ways to destroy Israel.

"At a time when there are international controls on uranium transactions we have made a gift of a deposit to the Arab world.

"The Rabin government has gone mad."

Officials refused to comment.

Israel has never confirmed foreign reports that it is the sole country in the Middle East to possess nuclear weapons.

Submits No-Confidence Motion on Issue*TA2211201293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900
GMT 22 Nov 93*

[Text] This evening, Tzomet filed a motion of no-confidence in the government due to the fact that Minister Moshe Shalev gave Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak geological maps that include markings of the location of layers a strategic mineral. The mineral was uncovered by Israeli geologists in the Sinai desert.

Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan, the Tzomet chairman, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the prime minister's decision to give this information to President Mubarak poses a threat to the existence of the State of

Israel because it allows Egypt to produce nonconventional weapons. Eytan claims that the affair is an unprecedented and grave intelligence fiasco.

IDF Considering Jordan Request for Use of Airspace*TA2311060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 23 Nov 93*

[Text] Jordan has asked Israel to allow the Jordanian airline to fly over Israel to and from the Mediterranean. The request is being studied by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF], and Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent Karmela Menashe says it will probably be approved. The study is being carried out at the Planning Department of the General Staff, but the decision will be made by Prime Minister Rabin in consultation with Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar.

Minister: Overflights Depend on Reciprocity*TA2311093893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830
GMT 23 Nov 93*

[Text] Granting permission to Jordan to fly over Israel will depend on Amman giving Israel permission to use its airspace, Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar said this morning in reaction to reports that Israel is considering consenting to the Jordanian request. Qeysar disclosed that the Jordanian request to fly over Israel reached his office via France, which heads the subcommittee on transportation in the talks with the Palestinians.

Rabin on U.S. Concern Over Madrid Format Collapse*TA2311111693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
23 Nov 93 pp A1, A10*

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Speaking at yesterday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the United States is extremely concerned about the collapse of the Madrid format and the Washington talks and that Christopher plans to try to revive that framework. Rabin said that contrary to his previous statements, he has informed the Americans that Israel is now ready to make progress "with anyone willing to make such progress together with it."

Rabin made these remarks after he briefed the ministers on his U.S. talks and on the U.S. stance that accelerated progress with Syria and Lebanon is vital. Referring to this point, Ministers Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Shulamit Aloni, and Yosi Sarid said that in their opinion, the absence of progress with Syria and Lebanon is liable to jeopardize the entire peace process, including the agreements already achieved with the Palestinians.

The prime minister reported that the Palestinians have failed to make progress in any civilian sphere of the

Gaza-Jericho First negotiations. He pointed out, however, that Israel will not implement the agreement with the PLO before an agreement on all the vital components of the Gaza-Jericho arrangement is attained. [passage omitted]

Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, briefed the cabinet on the internal struggles in the territories between the rejectionist organizations and Fatah and within Fatah itself. Rothschild said that the peace process supporters are split by struggles over jobs to be assigned after the establishment of self-rule. At the same time, there is growing acrimony toward 'Arafat, as well as demands for PLO democratization, he said.

The Palestinian public is disappointed with the absence of progress in both the political and economic arenas, Rothschild said. He added that the PLO institutions are paralyzed and that the organization's activists are not being paid. They hope for investments in the Palestinian economy and for an improved standard of living, but at the same time they fear that the economy will be taken over by rich Palestinians from abroad.

Defense officials told the cabinet that the Palestinians have been acting to reinforce their hold on Jerusalem. Their steps include the attempt to direct resources to public and business organizations in the city.

Rothschild also reported on the accelerated archaeological works currently being carried out in the territories. In reference to that, Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who is in charge of archaeological operations, noted that Israel does not plan to unilaterally expropriate archaeological artifacts and that these will be included in the political negotiations. Rubinstein said his ministry has invited Palestinian archaeologists to participate in the digs in order to see for themselves that no artifacts are being plundered.

Also at the cabinet meeting, Minister Shim'on Shetrit attacked Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's remarks in the United States to the effect that the Jordan River need not be Israel's security border. In reply, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Beilin was misquoted and that he had merely said that the Jordan River cannot serve as a defense buffer.

Rabin reported on the agreements he achieved during his U.S. visit and said the Americans "went out of their way" to ensure that the visit was positive in nature. Rabin seized the opportunity to note that Europe, as opposed to the United States, has failed so far to respond as expected to the political developments in the region. [passage omitted]

Rabin Calls For Global Aid for Palestinian Economy

TA2011093293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has called on countries around the world to grant financial aid to the Palestinians. Speaking at a luncheon of some 400 U.S. businessmen in New York, Rabin said economic aid to the Palestinians is in the interests of Israel and the rest of the world. Rabin also called on the Arab states to help the Palestinians, saying Arab solidarity should not be limited to negative issues. The prime minister said the per capita annual income in the territories is under \$1,800.

Beilin: U.S. Assistance Needed for Peace With Syria

TA2011060693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Speaking in Montreal, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said U.S. assistance is needed to help bring peace between Israel and Syria. He said there would not be a comprehensive peace in the Middle East without Syria. Beilin stressed that he did not want Syria to have any veto power over peace agreements with other Middle East countries.

Rabinovich Interviewed on Talks With Syria

TA2211151593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 93 p A2

["Exclusive" interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and chief delegate to the talks with Syria, by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on 21 November]

[Text] [Eldar] Israel wants to complete the process with the PLO and Jordan before tackling Syria. Are Hizballah's operations the Syrian answer to this position?

[Rabinovich] I do not think the Syrians are happy about these operations. A multi-pronged policy is characteristic of Syria's modus operandi. On more than one occasion, we have complained to Damascus about its equivocal messages. The Damascus-based al-Quds Radio began agitating against the Palestinians as early as last spring, notwithstanding Syria's long-standing connection with Hizballah. Syria declared that it does not object to the agreement with the PLO, but at the same time expressed its dissatisfaction verbally and politically. A similar inference can be made with regard to the continuation of the peace process. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad saw Syria as leading the process, and the order you listed does not fit his wishes. The Syrians may realize that they held the key to a different order of affairs last spring, that al-Asad misread the cards the sides were holding, and now perceives himself as having been defeated.

[Eldar] That being the case, is there room to fear that he might disrupt the process?

[Rabinovich] He will be tested by his actions. We have no intention of driving Syria out of the process. Therefore, this assumption need not be put to the test.

[Eldar] Will the purpose of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit mainly be to plead with al-Asad to wait patiently until conditions are ripe for advancing the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabinovich] The word pleading is not part of our lexicon. We do not think the cards held by Syria necessitate pleading with it. Syria's interests should force it to adopt a certain policy. The visit will focus on the Palestinian issue because it will be taking place just before 13 December, the date scheduled for the conclusion of the negotiations about Gaza and Jericho. Other emphasis will be on the Jordanian-Israeli track which contains a certain potential, and the Syrian track. Christopher may stop over in other countries on the periphery of the process.

[Eldar] Did President Clinton really accept the policy presented by the prime minister with regard to the timetable for the talks with the PLO, Jordan, and Syria? Was there no pressure to accelerate the Syrian track?

[Rabinovich] The Americans accepted the idea as soon as it was made clear to them that we are not talking about putting off the process with Syria for the sake of it, and that we want to make progress with everybody. As a rule, the Americans do not demand from us to change our policy, and the word pressure does not apply where our current relations with the United States are concerned.

[Eldar] What do you think about the idea that Israel declare the Golan Syrian territory, while Syria announces its willingness to establish diplomatic relations?

[Rabinovich] The Israeli side has not decided on any such idea and, consequently, it was not presented to the Syrians or to those who were asked to relay clear messages to them. Taking an overall view of the negotiations with Syria, I can say that even if one concludes that a certain idea could be beneficial, the way to go about it with Syria is not to float it as a trial balloon at an early stage.

[Eldar] Actually, such an idea makes a lot of sense seeing as it leaves broad latitude to discuss a timetable for a withdrawal, security arrangements, and even leasing.

[Rabinovich] I did not say it was illogical. What I am saying is that the Israeli Government has not embraced it and has not decided to use it in the negotiations. In fact, all that happened is that such an idea was raised in theory, but seeing that Syria's policy is to insist on a full withdrawal as a precondition, its response was an outright rejection. Syria's policy about a full withdrawal is unacceptable to us, and that is the main reason for the delay in the negotiations.

Ankara TV Interviews Peres on Peace Process, Syria

TA2111193893 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Andac Atak in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded; in English with superimposed Turkish translation, processed from the Turkish]

[Text] [Atak] A short while ago, Turkey and Israel signed a framework agreement. What can the short-term results of this agreement be from the viewpoint of political and economic cooperation?

[Peres] Turkey and Israel are among the most important countries in the Middle East. Turkey is a democratic and secular country. It can reinforce the Middle East peace process and bring a responsible and strategic approach. We can cooperate in numerous fields. I think that this was a very important start.

[Atak] What sort of a role can Turkey play in the Middle East problem and in the normalization of relations in the region?

[Peres] Turkey can bring winds of normalization to a world where the alternatives can be fundamentalism and fanaticism. With its experience, it can contribute to the multilateral peace talks. Turkey can participate in the economic restructuring of the Middle East which might have a strategic nature. Turkey holds a special importance with its water resources in this extremely dry region. Perhaps water is much more important than oil.

[Atak] Is there a water project between the two countries at the moment?

[Peres] There are several. We must investigate the best and most appropriate one.

[Atak] So there is no set project at this stage?

[Peres] No, that will take some time.

[Atak] In Israel, I talked to both Jews and Palestinians. Both sides say they want peace but do not trust each other. What can be done to increase trust between the two peoples and to encourage coexistence?

[Peres] It is impossible to live the results of peace without having established peace. We must pass through a difficult corridor full of problems, hatred, and mistrust. We are advancing in the right direction but it is a question of time.

[Atak] Despite the historic agreement you signed with the Palestinians, a comprehensive peace seems far away in the Middle East. Syria is boycotting the talks. How can Syria be encouraged to join the peace process?

[Peres] Syria must accept a peace process that will yield results. The talks must be held on a wide basis. No results will be achieved from talks held in a narrow channel full

of microphones. Talks must be held on different levels such as ministers, officials, etcetera. Some of the talks must be official, some unofficial, in fact, secret. Only then can we have meaningful talks and reach an agreement. We are not excluding Syria. Sooner or later, we will have to make peace with it, too. However, the way to peace passes from negotiations.

[Atak] Are there unofficial or secret contacts between Israel and Syria at the moment?

[Peres] I do not think so.

[Atak] Mr. Minister, when will you come on an official visit to Turkey?

[Peres] I look forward to such a visit. First, our president will visit Turkey. Then I will follow.

Netanyahu Criticizes Government for Syrian Peace Try

TA2111133993 Jerusalem Qel Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu says a sense of failure in negotiations with the Palestinians is driving the government attempt—under the direction of Meretz—to give up the Golan in exchange for peace with Syria. But, Netanyahu says, we will end up with a peace treaty on paper, while Syria will get the Golan. Speaking during a tour of the Golan this morning, Netanyahu said he did not trust Syrian President Hafez al-Assad. Netanyahu called on the Labor party members of the Golan lobby to join the Likud's Golan Law initiative. He expected the proposed law, which forbids territorial withdrawal from the Golan, to be brought forward in the Knesset next week. He hoped those Labor members who have promised to support the bill would uphold their pledges. Rabin plans to give up the entire Golan, Netanyahu said. He clarified his own position on the matter, saying he thought no territorial concessions there should be made.

Golan Lobby Willing To Moderate Stands To Draw Labor

TA2111072393 Jerusalem Qel Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Yitzhak Levi, secretary general of the National Religious Party [NRP], says the initiators of the Golan law are willing to moderate the phrasing of the draft law in order to attract the support of Labor Knesset members [MK's]. At the same time MK Levi did not give any details regarding what concessions he and his colleagues are willing to make.

Eli Malka, head of the Golan Heights settlements committee, rejected MK Levi's position. Malka emphasized that the present Golan Heights border line was determined following maximal concessions made by Israel after the signing of the Golan Heights disengagement agreements in 1974.

Sources: Syria, Israel Exploring Formula on Lebanon

TA1911123293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Pe'erli Shabar, Pinhas 'Inhari, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In his U.S. meetings, Prime Minister Rabin said this week that he is not prepared to announce the details of the Israeli withdrawal on the Golan but would state his position in secret talks with al-Assad. This statement, in addition to U.S. President Bill Clinton's plan to invite President al-Assad to the White House, is supposed to be the bait that will move the Syrian president to unfreeze the peace negotiations.

European diplomatic sources in Israel have said that a formula according to which Israel would recognize Syria's special status in Lebanon in exchange for Syrian recognition of the special relationship between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan has recently been explored informally.

The sources added that Christopher will test this formula during his upcoming Middle East tour. They asserted that the formula is supported by the United States and opposed by France. [passage omitted]

The sources added that for some time now, France has been trying to persuade Lebanon not to heed the Damascus dictums and to join the multilateral talks, making international economic aid available to Lebanon.

The sources did not identify the origin of this formula.

Deputy Minister Planning for Lebanon Withdrawal

TA2211152493 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Yu'avi Kaspi]

[Excerpts] Senior defense establishment figures have recently begun formulating detailed plans for the withdrawal of IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] troops from the security zone in south Lebanon and their redeployment along the international border.

The plan is being consolidated as part of a totally new security concept regarding the defense of Israel's northern settlements and ties with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the Lebanese Government. According to one of the plan's formulators, it will soon be presented in full to the cabinet, with the recommendation that the plan be adopted within the framework of the peace process and the formulation of comprehensive arrangements in the region. Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur is responsible for the formulation of the document.

According to the document, the IDF will effect a full withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and the defense of the northern settlements will be guaranteed through a combination of the IDF's presence along the international border and regional agreements that will ensure that the situation in south Lebanon does not revert to the state of affairs that existed prior to the Lebanese civil war.

According to one of the plan's formulators, the idea of a new security concept, which would enable Israel to defend its northern settlements without the IDF's presence in Lebanon, began to take shape even before progress was made in the peace talks, due to the high cost in human lives Israel was paying from among the soldiers serving in the security zone in south Lebanon.

One of the main questions raised by the new security concept is what will happen to the SLA. The defense establishment has explained on numerous occasions that once peace is achieved, the SLA could be integrated among the Lebanese Army forces which would deploy in the southern part of the country to prevent terrorist infiltrations into Israel. [passage omitted]

Desertion Feared in SLA After Rabin's Statements

TA2211152293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Nov 93 p 5

[Report by Arye Kessel and Goga Kogan]

[Excerpts] There is great concern among senior SLA [South Lebanese Army] officers in light of Prime Minister Rabin's statements regarding a possible withdrawal from the security zone if the Lebanese Army assumes responsibility for the area.

In meetings held between SLA commander General Antoine Lahd and senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, he expressed the fear that statements such as those recently made by Rabin could have an irreversible effect on his army. An Israeli military source said yesterday that the criticism that was leveled last week against the SLA following the surrender of 12 soldiers to Hizballah fighters, the daily artillery shellings, the war of attrition waged by the terrorists—and now, Rabin's statements—may eventually lead SLA troops to desert. In addition, the Christian residents of southern Lebanon fear that they will be abandoned. [passage omitted]

A senior military source in the IDF's Northern Command said that "the earth was trembling as a result of Rabin's remarks."

The source added: "Two weeks ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that Israel could withdraw from south Lebanon and the security zone could be 'handed over' to the Lebanese Army. We were angered by these statements at the time and said that we should keep our mouths shut with regard to south Lebanon, at least until the Syrians enter serious negotiations in this

area. Every public meeting or statement on this matter irritates the SLA soldiers. They say that it is not enough that they are bearing the brunt of the effort, but Israel is ready to sell them out to the Syrians for a very cheap price."

Shahal on Law, Order Expected in Territories

TA2211161593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the government will not permit Jews in the territories to violate the law and harm Arabs. He noted that this year there has been an increase in the number of complaints lodged against Israelis by Palestinians in the territories. Minister Shahal said that since the murder of Rabbi Hayim Druckman's driver approximately two weeks ago, 20 Jewish rioters have been detained and 43 criminal investigations were launched.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the police minister addressed the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee during a session devoted to law enforcement in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Minister Shahal said the police are preparing for the autonomy and to that end have requested 1,100 additional policemen to enforce law and order in the territories.

Major General Me'ir Dagan, deputy head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Operations Branch, said the chief of staff has directed the soldiers in the territories to detain Jewish rioters.

PLO Officers Inspect Gaza Army Bases, Police Centers

JN2211180693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid dispatch in Gaza; from the "With The Events" program]

[Excerpt] At noon today, two senior PLO officers arrived in Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing point. The two officers are 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, a senior Palestine Liberation Army commander, and Abdallah al-Farra, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for police affairs. Zuhdi al-Qidrah, member of the civilian committee of the Cairo talks, also arrived with them to inspect the Israeli Defense Force's [IDF] redeployment plan and the police centers that will be set up in the Gaza Strip.

IDF officers were on hand to receive the group, which toured the Gaza Strip and inspected the IDF's bases that will be vacated and the buildings which will be used by the Palestinian police.

The three PLO officials left the Gaza Strip for Egypt this afternoon. They are expected to return tomorrow, accompanied by a third officer called Jihad (? 'Arif) to discuss certain security problems in the Strip. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Allowed To Visit, Brief Hamas Prisoners

TA2111123893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Nov 93 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal and the defense establishment have allowed Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Palestinian delegation, to visit security prisoners, including members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], at the Nafha and Ashqelon Prisons. He briefed them on the release of prisoners and detainees from Israeli lockups.

Al-Husayni met Hamas leaders and confronted them on the issue of the release of the prisoners. The Islamic organization leaders expressed their opposition to the gradual release plan, saying that they do not accept the fact that the PLO agreed to the plan.

Al-Husayni met 12 central Hamas activists, including some imprisoned for murder. Government sources yesterday explained that the visit was approved to help calm the prisoners.

According to the sources, the demand made by Nabil Sha'th, head of the delegation to the Taba talks, that all prisoners be released at once, was made for media purposes, and that it is obvious the release will remain gradual.

Two Arrested on Suspicion of Selling Arms to Hamas

TA2211201593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000
GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Two youths from Kfar Sava have been arrested on suspicion of selling guns and explosives to terrorists. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the two, 20 and 25 years old, were detained this morning and will be brought before the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court tomorrow to have their remand in custody extended.

Tel Aviv police detectives and Military Police investigators took part in the investigation that led to the arrest. It is believed that the two stole the arms and ammunition from the Army headquarters in Tel Aviv. The investigators suspect that the stolen equipment served Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists in various attacks. Among other things, the police are examining whether the two were the source of the guns used in the murder of the two policemen north of Hadera.

Three Hamas Members Given Life Terms for Murder

TA2111154493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500
GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court imposed life plus dozens of years in jail on three of the five terrorists who murdered the soldier Yaron Hen near the al-Ram junction north of Jerusalem three months ago. All five

belonged to Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam organization. Three of the defendants confessed to the act and were convicted. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the trial of the other two continues. After hearing the verdicts, the mother of one of the defendants started screaming in court and the judge ordered her detained.

'Terrorist' Wounded in Aborted Gaza Attack

TA2211072193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700
GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] A terrorist attack has been thwarted in the Gaza Strip. A terrorist tried to ram his car into a Civil Administration vehicle in the center of the Gaza Strip. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Gil Litman report that around 0800 this morning, a Gaza Municipality garbage truck began driving at high speed toward a Civil Administration vehicle near the Netzarim junction. Soldiers realized what was happening and opened fire at the truck, whose driver was critically wounded by the shots. A check revealed that the truck had been seized this morning from Gaza Municipality workers, as was the case two weeks ago in the attack that resulted in the death of an Israeli Arab from northern Israel. The security forces are still looking into the incident.

West Bank Arab Dies While Preparing Bomb

TA2311110793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000
GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-Razzaq Shahhada, a resident of Idniah in the Hebron area, was killed this morning when a powerful roadside bomb he was preparing exploded near the village of Bayt Kahil, our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

Majority Say Government 'Too Soft' on Arab 'Terror'

TA1911125693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah; all figures quoted in percentage points]

[Text] Question: Do you believe the Israeli Government did the right thing in signing the agreement with the PLO?

Jews only: yes—48; no—47; no reply—5.

Arabs and Jews: yes—51; no—44; no reply—5.

Question: Has there been a change in attitude toward the PLO over the last month?

Jews only: no—81; change from opposition to support—2; change from support to opposition—13; no reply—4. Arabs and Jews: no—82; change from opposition to support—3; change from support to opposition—12; no reply—3.

Question: Is the Israeli Government's handling of Arab terrorism correct, too harsh, or too soft?

Jews only: correct—18; too soft—74; too harsh—1; no reply—7.

Jews and Arabs: correct—21; too soft—67; too harsh—5; no reply—7.

Question: Is the Israeli Government's handling of the settlers' violent reactions to Arab terror correct, too harsh, or too soft?

Jews only: correct—28; too soft—30; too harsh—36; no reply—6.

The poll was conducted on 17 November, surveying 535 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Israeli population, Jews and Arabs. The statistical margin of error is 4 percent.

Coalition-SHAS Crisis Over Human Rights Law

TA1711125493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] A crisis is looming between the coalition and the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and United Torah Jewry Knesset factions on the issue of the Basic Law on Juridical Rights, and the Basic Law on Freedom of Speech and Assembly. The ultra-orthodox parties demand the postponement of the Knesset vote on the first reading of the law. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the SHAS faction announced that unless its demand is met it will vote against the government during the no-confidence motions before the Knesset next Monday [22 November]. Knesset Member [MK] Arye Der'i announced that even though SHAS is not in the coalition, it will support the government as long as the status quo on religious affairs is not violated. The two draft laws, according to SHAS, violate the status quo.

MK Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, said that despite the threats he will raise the two draft laws for Knesset vote this afternoon, but on several clauses he will acquiesce to SHAS' demands. SHAS has announced it will not settle for this. Contacts on the controversial points continue.

Labor Votes With Ultra-Orthodox

TA1711203993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset plenum this evening voted against the two bills on the Basic Law on Juridical Rights and the Basic Law on Freedom of Speech and Assembly. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Labor joined the ultra-Orthodox factions and voted against the two bills. Minister Shim'on Peres explained that the vote was not directed against the bills themselves but rather resulted

from the fact that Meretz had rejected the prime minister's request to put off the vote by two weeks. Twenty-two Knesset members [MK's] voted against the bills, while 15 MK's supported them. MK Arye Der'i said that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] was pleased with Labor's vote and will not support the no-confidence motion against the government on 22 November. Der'i added that SHAS will continue its contacts with the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee in order to have the bills modified according to its demands.

Minister Yosi Sarid said Labor was responsible for the defeat of the two bills; however, Meretz will not initiate a coalition crisis over Labor's vote.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion on Poverty

TA2211184793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset has rejected a no-confidence motion by the Likud over the increase in poverty in Israel. Forty-eight members supported the government, 39 opposed, and 9 abstained.

UN Officials Detain Vessel, Search for Smuggled Goods

TA2311095793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] UN inspectors this morning detained the Israeli Zim cargo vessel (Kao Hsing) in the Straits of Tiran, claiming that they must verify that it is not smuggling goods to Iraq. They are unable to carry out the inspection, however, because the cargo is stored on four levels.

UN forces detained Israeli vessels several months ago on the basis of a similar claim, but stopped doing so after agreement was reached with the UN secretary general that cargo ships sailing to Elat will not be inspected. It is not clear why the United Nations has resumed detaining Israeli vessels.

Vessel Permitted To Proceed to Elat

TA2311151193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] The UN multforce inspectors have decided to permit the Israeli Zim cargo vessel (Kao Hsing) to proceed on its way to Elat. This morning, the inspectors stopped the vessel in the straits of Tiran, claiming that they had to verify whether it was smuggling goods to Iraq. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the ship's release was made possible following the intervention of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Russian Delegation Visits for Talks on Cooperation

King Husayn Receives Yeltsin Message

JN2011190693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] His majesty the king has received at the Royal Court Russian First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, who relayed a message to his majesty from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Shumeyko stressed the keenness of the Russian leadership to promote bilateral ties in all fields. He also underlined the importance of mutual cooperation to push the Middle East peace process forward. The Russian official hailed the Jordanian democratic march.

His majesty the king spelled out Jordan's keenness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace protected and accepted by the future generations. His majesty stressed Jordan's persistence to go ahead with its experiment in democracy to be an example followed by those aspiring for freedom, democracy, and respect of human rights.

Crown Prince Addresses Meeting

JN2011138393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said there are increasing aspirations and hopes that the Middle East peace process would bear fruit. His highness said the proceedings of the peace process mirror the wisdom of His majesty the king and his farsighted and sound resolutions, which came in response to Jordanian, regional, and international realities.

His highness underlined Jordan's support for the Palestinians to restore their national rights on their soil. At the same time, the crown prince said, his majesty the king has always exerted the utmost efforts to reach a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace for all the parties in the Middle East.

His highness was addressing the first executive Jordanian-Russian gathering held in Amman today under his royal patronage. He said his majesty the king has taken a number of key decisions that were proven to be wise, correct, and timely. His highness added that the meetings coincide with the end of elections for the 12th Jordanian parliament. He said the talks give the friendly Russians the opportunity to have a closer look on parliamentary democracy based on political pluralism, freedom, and respect of human rights.

The conference is organized by the Hashemite Association for International Economic Cooperation. The Russian side was led by First Vice President [title as heard] Vladimir Shumeyko.

Crown Prince Comments Further

JN2011214393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 20 Nov 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said he hoped a visit by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko to Jordan would lead to tangible results and a joint understanding of various aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

Addressing participants in the first executive Russian-Jordanian conference, his royal highness underlined the need to activate the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of economic and scientific exchange.

The crown prince said today's conference affirmed the keenness on both sides to adopt a scientific approach to develop their economic relations and joint projects. Prince Hasan said that the visit of the Russian delegation coincides with increased hopes and expectations that the Middle East peace process will bear fruit.

Prince Hasan later told the "News at Ten" that he hopes this would bring greater Russian investment in the Middle East.

[Begin Hasan recording] I believe that the experience of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the experience of Russia in terms of privatization, in terms of free market economy, in terms of reconstruction and development, in addition to the very keen interest paid to arbitration are some of the common denominators in this meeting, which combines the participation of government finance and the participation of some of the major companies interested in interregional cooperation between Russia and the Middle East.

What we hope to achieve is some specific recommendations in terms of the establishment of an arbitration committee, the establishment—through the necessary protocols—of thematic cooperation in investment, with particular emphasis on small industries. You'll see the very large number of small industries represented here, and we hope effectively that this first meeting, which will continue regionally both here and in Moscow, as Shumeyko, the vice premier, has very currently suggested in his statement, will also give hope for greater interest in investment and stability in the Middle East, and indeed investment in peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Talks Detailed

JN2011211393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Meetings of the joint Jordanian-Russian committees, which emanated from the first Jordanian-Russian economic conference inaugurated by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan in Amman this morning, began in Amman this afternoon.

The meetings of the six joint committees, which comprise 93 members, aim to crystallize common points of understanding in order to enhance fields of cooperation between both friendly countries, adopt a scientific approach to promote bilateral economic relations, increase commodity exchanges, open horizons for investment, and establish joint ventures.

During the meetings, the two sides discussed mechanisms for promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of investment, banks, imports, exports, joint ventures, science, and technology, as well as providing a mechanism for arbitration characterized by legal knowledge, honesty, and ability to understand and tackle any trade differences that have a technical character.

The Jordanian and Russian sides stressed the interest of the public and private sectors in the two friendly countries in various fields, especially as Jordan is the Middle East's gate, a window to the world, and a center for acquiring cadres as well as modern banking, accounting, and administrative systems. These systems highlight the role of the Jordanian experience which can contribute to development in the Russian Federation. These committees will resume work tomorrow, Sunday.

Future Meetings Planned

JN2211123793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
22 Nov 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (PETRA)—The second day of a roundtable meeting attended by Russian and Jordanian economists, officials and businessmen Sunday ended with an agreement to organize a series of meetings between directors of several firms of both countries to set the stage for future trade and economic cooperation.

A statement issued during the four-day meeting said the Russian and Jordanian participants agreed that directors of firms from their respective countries should meet and exchange ideas and proposals that could contribute to the development of trade exchanges.

The statement said that the directors of these firms could also define the needs of Jordanian markets of Russian primary and raw materials, decide on trade fairs to be organized in either country to sell products and examine how market networks in either country can be utilized to sell Russian and Jordanian goods. [passage omitted]

Iranian Deputy Minister Makes Statement, Departs

JN2111174493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Engineer Mehdi Mofidi, Iranian deputy heavy industry minister for economic and trade affairs, has praised the progress Jordan has made in the industrial field. He said Jordanian national industry can take a qualitative step in the field of production and secure Jordan's consumption needs as well as the industrial material needs of the region's states.

He said this in a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY before leaving Amman at dawn today for Tehran, after participating in the inauguration of the second Iranian specialized fair in Jordan.

Eng. Mofidi said he visited several Jordanian industrial establishments. He said these establishments have developed a great deal and made tangible progress. This proves their ability to compete with other industries.

Talks Said Under Way on Restoring Ties With Kuwait

JN2111104293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Lawyer 'Abd-al-Nasir Nassar has said that he received verbal confirmation from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah that the Kuwaiti Government is in the process of reestablishing ties with Jordan on clear and new bases and concepts away from the conditions to which the Kuwaiti Government has always adhered.

Kuwait has announced more than once that Jordanian-Kuwaiti ties will not be normalized before five years and that Jordan should offer an official apology for its stand during the Gulf crisis. However, Jordan has overlooked these Kuwaiti conditions.

Nassar told AL-DUSTUR that a ranking Kuwaiti official will arrive in Amman tomorrow, Monday, or Tuesday at the latest to discuss the restoration of bilateral relations. However, he declined to elaborate in order to ensure the success of the efforts being made to break the ice in relations between Jordan and Kuwait.

Nassar, who is making unofficial contacts in this regard, said that talks are underway to arrange for a special high-level meeting of officials from both countries to discuss future relations. He noted that the venue and date of the meeting depend on the success of the Kuwaiti official's mission in Amman, which is shrouded in secrecy.

Senate Committee Decision on Arab Boycott Criticized

JN2211091993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
22 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "No Piecemeal Peace"]

[Text] The tug-of-war between Washington and the capitals of the Arab World over the Arab boycott of Israel took a turn to the worst when the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently recommended to the Senate the passage of legislation that would essentially penalize the Arab countries that still observe the boycott by denying them even defensive weapons. While it is premature to project how the U.S. Senate will deal with this proposal, it is necessary to warn the U.S.

senators that any action in this regard might easily undermine the peace process.

To put the issue in perspective, the Arab boycott of Israel should be viewed as being a measure and feature of the state of war that, in the absence of peace, still exists between many Arab states and Israel. No one is recommending the perpetuation of such a state of affairs, and such a boycott will automatically end once peace treaties between Israel and its Arab neighbours are signed. The peoples of this region are yearning for the day when peace reigns in the Middle East and ushers in a new era of regional cooperation on every conceivable level, including of course economic cooperation which would be the centerpiece of the future in the area. But to ask the Arab side to yield on this point as of now, when the peace process has barely started, would be like putting the cart before the horse. Neither international law nor international practice dictate that the Arab World make such a precipitous concession before full peace is attained. The Arab states and Israel have lived with the boycott regime in place for more than four decades and both sides have managed to withstand it. Moreover, the Arab boycott has not been ironclad by any stretch of the mind. Surely the U.S. Senate can wait for a little more before it can expect the lifting of the Arab boycott, especially now that peace is just around the corner.

Officially, ending the boycott would be a giant step towards the integration of Israel into the Middle East. Certainly this is no small measure for the Israelis. Such a development is one of their strategic objectives but they should not think they can get it on a silver plate. Peace should be the price for giving on Israel's plea to replace the boycott regime by a more favourable Arab position on international trade affecting Tel Aviv as well. The faster the Rabin government moves on the various peace tracks with the Arab parties, the closer the day will be when the Arab boycott becomes a relic of the past.

Paper Warns Arabs 'Running Out of Patience'

JN2111160593 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
21 Nov 93 p 13

[Editorial: "U.S. Policy and Arab Patience"]

[Text] News reports of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's approaching tour of the region are supposed to spread an atmosphere of satisfaction and optimism. As announced by the U.S. Administration, the U.S. official's new tour is designed to push the peace process forward and break the prevailing stalemate, especially regarding the Syrian track.

It seems, however, that the real situation is totally different. With the approach of Christopher's tour, reports are surfacing about U.S. commitments to offer more military aid to Israel. Such commitments will provoke rather than relax tension. Such commitments will prevent any progress in negotiations. They will frustrate efforts and contacts designed to end the deadlock. They will allow Israel to continue its historic oppression of Arabs instead of gradually easing and removing the oppression. These commitments will increase Israel's power. Given the existing imbalance of power, this does not serve peace or the stability and security of the region.

These commitments contradict U.S. and Israeli public propaganda. How else can we interpret the new U.S. pledges to increase military aid to Israel, in light of U.S. and Israeli announcements about their concern to bring peace and stability to the region? How should we interpret U.S. and Israeli disregard of Arab demands for the restoration of minimal rights and usurped land? How can we interpret the U.S. position as anything but encouragement for Israel to commit more crimes against our relatives in the occupied territories and carry out more attacks on our Arab villages in southern Lebanon?

Won't these U.S. positions, commitments, and promises—as well as Israeli attacks and massacres—obstruct negotiations, put the Arab negotiator in a predicament, embarrass him, and portray his defense of his rights and his rejection of oppression as a rejection of peace and stability?

Anyone who wants to support the peace process and secure the fundamentals of security and stability in the region should support the Arab party. It is the principal party in the equation. It is the owner of the right, first and foremost. Anyone who wants to achieve development and self-sufficiency and support the region's economies, as noted in statements by U.S. officials, should seek to maintain the balance and safeguard the sovereignty of the states in the region. He should expose Israel's arbitrary actions, not support them.

The Arab is almost running out of patience as a result of the U.S. political stand and the activation of unlimited U.S. support for Israel. On the eve of Christopher's visit to the region, it is time for Washington to reconsider its policy. It should stop supporting Israel and try to do its best to push the peace process forward, in word and deed.

Joint Hizballah-Amal Group Attacks SLA Patrol

NC2011105493 *Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic* 1000 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] In a joint statement issued this morning, Hizballah and the Amal Movement said a joint Hizballah-Amal group laid an ambush for a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the 'Alman-Dayr Siryan road this morning. The group attacked the patrol members with machine guns and rockets. At the same time, the resistance fighters attacked an Israeli position in 'Alman, destroying a vehicle and some bunkers and killing or wounding several enemy personnel.

Afterward, the enemy shelled Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Mazra'at al-Hamra' with artillery.

The statement, issued by the joint operations room of Hizballah and the Amal Movement, pledged to continue the jihad operations until liberation. It also pledged more unity to support the march of resistance and liberation.

Israelis Send Tanks, Reinforcements to Security Zone

NC2011063293 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 0530 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reports that Israeli forces have brought 10 tanks to the al-Qantarah post and have sent a large number of reinforcements to the posts of al-Tayyibah, 'Alman, and al-Shumariyah in the Marj 'Uyun area.

Further on Reinforcements

NC2011192893 *Paris AFP in English* 1830 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Nov 20 (AFP)—Israel sent six extra artillery pieces into its self-declared security zone in south Lebanon Saturday, as guerrillas continued attacks on its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

A source close to the SLA said the 155-millimetre guns were positioned in the Israeli base at al-Majidiyah, in the eastern sector of the zone.

It is the first time Israel has sent reinforcements into south Lebanon since the end of July, when it virtually doubled its contingent there.

Three SLA militiamen were lightly wounded Saturday [20 November] in a clash with guerrillas on the edge of the zone.

An SLA spokesman said their position at 'Alman-al-Shumariyah was attacked with rockets and automatic weapons.

Israeli artillery retaliated by shelling the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights—a stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas near the southern port of Sidon—and the outskirts of several villages bordering on the security zone.

Earlier Saturday Hizballah guerrillas and Syrian-backed Amal fighters mounted a joint attack on the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah position, and later reported "several dead and wounded" among the SLA militiamen.

On Tuesday, Hizballah guerrillas captured 12 SLA members in a major offensive against the security zone.

Israel retaliated by pounding Hizballah bases in Ba'l-abakk in eastern Lebanon, killing a Lebanese shepherd and wounding two Hizballah militants.

On Friday, Israel blamed Syria for the latest security breakdown in south Lebanon and charged that a meeting in Damascus between Syrian and Iranian officials was "not a coincidence."

Syria, which is deadlocked in its peace talks with Israel, is the main power broker in Lebanon where it deploys some 35,000 troops.

Israeli Attacks Reportedly 'Escalated'

NC2111174393 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1630 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent in south Lebanon 'Ali Dawud has reported that the Israeli occupation forces have escalated their acts of aggression this afternoon. Israeli artillery bombarded Iqlim al-Tuffah hills and heights. Resistance men attacked an Israeli force near the Suhud outpost.

At 1500 today, Israeli forces emplaced in al-Zaffatah pounded the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills and heights with 155-mm field artillery. Shells fell on the hills of Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, and the periphery of Jarju'. In the meantime Israeli helicopters flew over 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Burj, and al-Rayhan. At the same time, agent [South Lebanese Army Commander] Lahd forces stationed in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah raked the al-Litani river basin and woods with heavy-caliber machine guns. The gunfire reached the areas near 'Ali al-Tahir and Tallat al-Burj.

The Islamic Resistance said that one of its groups this afternoon encountered an Israeli engineering force that was detonating bombs at the Sujud outpost. The Islamic Resistance fighters clashed with the Israeli force using machine guns and rockets and prevented it from performing its tasks.

Hizballah Holds Military Exercise, Vacates Ba'labakk

NC2311084793 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic* 0800 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] According to reports, Hizballah elements held an exercise with live ammunition last night near Ba'labakk city where Syrian forces are deployed.

Lebanese security sources said that the sound of explosions and antiaircraft guns were heard in the city. They

added that Hizballah elements vacated their positions inside Ba'labakk in anticipation of a possible Israeli military operation.

Syria's al-Asad Expected To Visit

NC2111133293 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1130 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] It has been reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the B'abda palace. The visit will be a significant event because it is the first visit by a Syrian president to the palace and the second visit to Lebanon by President al-Asad, who visited Shtawrah back in 1973.

Press sources said that preparations are under way to receive Lebanon's distinguished guest. The visit will be an opportunity for President al-Asad to congratulate the Lebanese on their independence day and President al-Hirawi for his transfer to the B'abda palace.

While the date of the visit has not been set, press sources said that the visit will probably take place on Tuesday, 23 November, or before the weekend.

*** Rift Between Hizballah and Iran Reported**

94P50033A *Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic* 1 Nov 93 pp 8-9

[Commentary: "Why Did Fadlallah Ignore Iran in His Speech?"]

[Text] At a ceremony for which no permission had been obtained from any Lebanese or Syrian security authority, which was held within the security zone of the Iranian Embassy in the al-Janah area of southwest Beirut in clear disregard of the possibility of interference by the Lebanese security apparatus to prevent it, Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, in a written speech—the first on paper, issued a call which began with the phrase "O Lebanese, the president of your republic...." This was in response to the Party rank and file in whose ranks, Nasrallah's movement had created confusion before and during the demonstration in al-Ghubayri after it accused him of having concentrated his attacks on the head of government while neglecting to speak about the president of the republic.

However, these were not the only observations from the Party's ceremony commemorating the fortieth day after the deaths of the victims of the al-Ghubayri incident.

This ceremony was attended by the new Iranian ambassador in Beirut, Homayun 'Alizadeh, who had been waiting a long time for the return of the Lebanese foreign minister from his tour abroad so that he could present to him his credentials transferring him from the position of charge d'affaires to that of ambassador plenipotentiary to Lebanon.

It was also observed that a low-level Iranian delegation had attended the Party's ceremony. For over a month, the Party's leadership and its Guide, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, had been strongly urging Tehran to send someone to represent it in offering and receiving condolences for the al-Ghubayri victims.

During this entire period, Tehran did not respond. However, for the commemoration of the fortieth day after the deaths of the victims, it sent a former minister who had been expelled from Rafsanjani's last cabinet for being one of the hardliners, whereas Iran was always desirous of sending to Lebanon leading personalities of the caliber of Ayatollah Jannati and others to support its party.

Nuri [most likely Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh 'Abdollah Nuri] had followed Seyyed 'Ali Mohtashemi in being dismissed after he took his place in the Iranian ministry of the interior following Mohtashemi's dismissal. Before that Nuri was a representative for the Imam Khomeyni in the Revolutionary Guard and then in the Reconstruction Crusade before being brushed aside recently. His coming to Lebanon does not represent the official Iranian position toward the present Hizballah leadership.

At the same ceremony, there appeared a clear disparity between the speeches of the Sayyids Nasrallah and Fadlallah. While the former appeared to be very fearful of normalization with Israel, the latter was speaking of the fear of Israeli economic power by some people describing them as weak and ignorant.

In his speech, the Hizballah Guide, Sayyid Fadlallah, mentioned Iran in the end, something which some of those present interpreted as a reply to Iranian slights to the Sayyid—during his recent visit to Iran; the refusal of the envoy of Sayyed Khamene'i, Shaykh Ahmad Mehri, to receive him when he was passing through Damascus on his way to Beirut; and the refusal of Khamene'i's representative in the Revolution Guard, Shaykh Movahhedi-Kermani, to visit him at his headquarters in Bi'r al-'Abd. (See the previous edition of AL-SHIRA'.)

Rabin Statement on Negotiations 'Strongly Rejected'*PM2211163693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Nov 93 p 3*

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Syria Rejects Israeli Request To Resume Negotiations With Conditions"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria has strongly rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement announcing Israel's willingness to resume negotiations on the Syrian track without prior conditions. Syrian officials have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the claimant of the right is supposed to be the one to impose the conditions. But if the aggressor has the final say and decision, this is not just an attack on the international resolutions and the United Nations, but indeed a direct defiance of the states interested in actual peace, in particular the United States, sponsor of the Madrid conference and author of the land for peace initiative.

Syrian officials added that everyone must know, just as all those who held talks with Israel knew, that adherence to peace terms is the basis and the most important element for any future negotiations. Syria's demand for complete withdrawal from the Golan is its right, not a condition we are setting for the negotiations. If Israel wants peace, it must finally decide to withdraw completely from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories. If Rabin's statement is designed to evade the peace process, the international community must exert pressure on Israel to force it to accept peace terms in accordance with the stipulations of international legitimacy.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' disclosed the night before last, while seeing off French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, with whom he had held talks on the peace process, that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher contacted him after his talks with Rabin in Washington and told him that a firm plan and a solid base had been drawn up in order to move forward, and that the details would be discussed during his visit to Damascus. However, al-Shar' said: Nothing can be predicted so far. It depends on what Christopher is going to carry with him to Damascus. Syrian officials believe that Rabin's statements cannot be trusted, as he has contradicted his own statements several times. They also believe that Rabin is trying to promote a specific idea, namely that Christopher is coming to the region to market Israeli ideas after Rabin succeeded in convincing the U.S. President of his proposals concerning finding an alternative formula to the Madrid conference based on secret talks instead of the bilateral negotiations in Washington and their rounds which have continued for over two years. Syrian officials pointed out that Syria is still hoping that the United States will seriously play its role as a full partner, and that Syria is not expecting Christopher to carry with him damaged goods which have proved futile in the efforts to advance the peace process.

Syrian officials added that we have no place for the Israeli peace. Because peace comes through international

resolutions which cannot be ignored by walking on dark roads. And that Syria cannot accept any pressures to be exerted on it, pressures exerted on Syria by all fronts. But it seems that everyone has forgotten that Syria has precious cards in its hands and knows well how to use them in the interests of the legitimacy of peace, especially as all officials who visited Damascus recently have emphasized the correctness of the Syrian view of a just, comprehensive peace and the withdrawal.

Defense Minister Addresses Ceremony on Peace Stand*JN1811082893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 93*

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and as part of our Armed Forces' celebrations marking the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, a graduation ceremony for a new batch of War Academy students was held this morning.

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, deputized for his excellency the president. The graduation ceremony was attended by Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Iranian Revolution Guards, several members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, several cabinet ministers, Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy Army chief of staff, several comrade secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches, and governors.

The ceremony was also attended by Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army, senior General Command officers, commanders of military academies and schools, several senior officers of the Lebanese Army Command, several Arab and foreign military attaches, and the relatives of martyrs Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Bin-'Ali 'Izz-al-Din and Lieutenant Colonel Raghid Yusuf al-Kaddur. Relatives of the graduates and a large number of guests also attended. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas, who deputized for the commander in chief, delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by relaying the greetings of leader al-Asad as well as his wishes of success to graduates in their efforts to perform the national and pan-Arab missions that will be assigned to them within the ranks of the valiant Armed Forces. He added: It is a splendid coincidence that this graduation ceremony of yours should be held at a time when our great people and our valiant Armed Forces are celebrating the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. This movement is the offspring of the revolution, the party, and the masses' will. Thus, Arab Syria and its valiant Armed Forces have, under this movement, won the admiration of the world community. It has become the hope of the Arab nation's masses, who are struggling

to liberate the territories, restore usurped rights, and build a bright future for our people and nation.

Lt. Gen. Talas also spoke about regional peace, saying: Since the inception of the Corrective Movement, Arab Syria, under the historic leadership of leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad, has pursued a clear and firm policy toward the Arab nation's fateful causes. This policy is based on a comprehensive perspective, firm principles, a commitment to rights, and a pledge not abandon one inch of these rights, regardless of the sacrifices entailed. Syria has always sought to achieve comprehensive and just peace. It has always been eager to embody this policy through commitment to the peace process, and also through constant willingness to cooperate with the world community and its agencies to achieve the desired peace.

Talas noted the policy of deception and maneuvers, as well as the intrigue and trickery employed by the Tel Aviv rulers to misrepresent facts and render international resolutions void of any meaningful content in order to clear the way for the conclusion of separate deals, evade the requirements of peace, and drag the Arabs into capitulation.

Talas affirmed that the Tel Aviv rulers will be mistaken if they think or believe that they can make al-Asad's Syria abandon its objectives and principles. He noted that nobody can overlook Syria, or deny its effective role with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is, he added, because all people in the world and the region are aware that there can be no peace without Syria, regardless of the attempts being made by Israel and its rulers to obstruct efforts to implement the relevant UN resolutions and evade the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Then, Lt. Gen. Talas addressed the graduates, saying: O youthful graduates: Your presence at this scientific and military edifice has provided you with several combat skills and has instilled in you ideological values pertaining to struggle—values that will nourish you in your daily life within our Armed Forces. I urge you to continue with efforts to gain more knowledge so that you may further your scientific and political knowledge, foster leadership skills, and enhance your combat capabilities. This is necessary if you are to accomplish the missions that may be assigned to you. Moreover, I advise you to take good care of your subordinates. They are a trust you have to keep. Set good examples in conduct and performance for them. Enhance within their souls trust in the leader and their weapons. Foster their conscientiousness to epitomize leader al-Asad's instructions, as well as his struggle and ethical values.

Talas added: On this occasion, it pleases me to inform you that the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces has agreed to name your course after the two heroic martyrs Lt. Gen. Ahmad Bin-'Ali 'Izz-al-Din and Lt. Gen. Raghid Bin-Yusuf al-Khaddur in appreciation

of heroism and sacrifices and to immortalize martyrdom and our heroic martyrs, the most elevated on earth and the noblest among people.

Concluding his speech, Talas thanked the academy commander, officers, instructors, and employees for their efforts in training graduates. [passage omitted]

Official Stresses 'Just, Comprehensive' Mideast Peace

JN2211175793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed Syria's eagerness to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, led by Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as to realize the land-for-peace principle as part of the Madrid formula, on whose basis the peace conference convened.

In a comprehensive political review before the annual conference of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Central Branch today, Comrade Qaddur asserted that Israel is placing successive obstacles before the peace process in order to depart from the Madrid formula, conclude separate deals with the concerned parties, employ tricky and deceptive methods, and distance the peace process from its objectives, approaches, and international terms of reference.

Comrade Qaddur explained that Syria sees in peace-making a noble objective. He said that noble objectives cannot be achieved covertly, in labyrinths, or away from public opinion's sight. He emphasized that Syria, under comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, is strong and self-confident, and has faith in its national unity while seeking both a just and comprehensive peace and the regaining of all occupied Arab territories, without selling out an inch of these territories.

Al-Asad Receives Cables From Palestinian, Iraqi Ba'thists

JN1911114793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Ba'thist militants in the occupied Arab territories and fraternal Iraq have joined the nation's masses in sending congratulations to President Hafiz al-Asad on the 23d anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement. They stressed that the militant masses in the occupied territories and Iraq look to the leader of the nation's struggle, full of confidence in his wise and courageous leadership; full of hope in his principled, pan-Arab policies, and full of determination to continue the struggle and offer sacrifices to achieve the pan-Arab objectives, overcome the current difficulties, and foil the schemes aimed at promoting despair and the spirit of capitulation and submission in the Arab arena.

The Ba'thist militants in the occupied territories and Iraq stressed to the leader of the nation's struggle that the

masses will continue the struggle and offer sacrifices so that the nation can achieve unity, liberate its occupied territory, and regain its usurped rights.

President Hafiz al-Asad received a cable of congratulations from the Ba'thist comrades in the occupied territories. The cable says: From Arab Palestine, whose soil was mixed with Arab blood, your Ba'thist comrades extend to you the warmest congratulations on the anniversary of the Corrective Movement, which was launched by the rank and file of our great party under your historic leadership. [passage omitted]

Our Palestinian masses, who continue their struggle and stick to the intifadah as a militant course to achieve our people's objectives, stress that the Gaza-Jericho agreement abandons rights, dismisses the masses' militant role, and disavows the blood of martyrs and the pain of the wounded and prisoners. We pledge to you to continue the struggle with our people's masses and their national forces to confront that agreement.

We promise you, Comrade Leader, to continue the struggle under the banner of our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and under your historic leadership to achieve our Arab nation's objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. May you live long as our historic leader.

President al-Asad received a cable of congratulations from the [pro-Syrian, dissident] Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The cable says:

This is a letter of amity, pledge, and allegiance from your Ba'thist comrades in Iraq on the 23d anniversary of the pioneering Corrective Movement, which established the pillars of this great edifice of regional and pan-Arab action.

The masses of our Iraq, Mr. Comrade, acknowledge your support and defense of their interests. They will always remember your great sacrifices to fend off the factors of division that the ruler in our country is still fabricating. They also value your sound assessment of the unjust Iraq-Iran war. The masses, gratefully, appreciate the noble, courageous stand when on 12 January 1991, in a famous letter to the ruler in Baghdad, you proposed withdrawal from Kuwait so that Syria, with all its material and moral resources, could stand with Iraq in the same trench and fight fiercely by its side. We have always known you as a man who understands difficult times. You have never dissociated yourself from Mesopotamia or the pain of its people.

The Iraqis, who are afflicted by the dictatorship of a tyrannical ruler who has caused our country to be poverty-stricken and in shackles, are today turning their eyes to you, the Corrective Movement's hero, seeing in you the hope for salvation. They have always known you as the refuge from adversities and they now appeal for your abundant, everlasting support.

O best of supporters: The Ba'thists will remain loyal soldiers to their country and nation. They stress the determination to continue the march of struggle under your banner to rescue our country from the afflictions surrounding it.

Warmest congratulations from Iraq's masses and steadfast Ba'thists. May you live long as a source of pride, struggle, and dignity and as a symbol of constancy and defending principles.

Immortality to our message.

The president also received cables of congratulations on the glorious Corrective Movement's anniversary from a number of organizations, institutions, citizens, and expatriates inside and outside Syria.

Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Visits for Talks

Meets Khaddam, al-Zu'bi

JN2011164093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Nov (SANA)—At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] delegation led by the NPC's Standing Committee Vice Chairman Wang Bingqin.

The session was attended by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus and Shakir Is'ayyid, deputy speaker and chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly respectively, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus. Their discussions centered on the Middle East and bilateral ties.

[Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic at 1830 GMT on the same day reports that the NPC delegation also meet with Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to discuss "bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest."]

Received by al-Shar'

JN2111081593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Yesterday evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Bingqin Wang, vice chairman of the PRC National People's Congress, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus and Shakir Is'ayyid, deputy speaker and chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly respectively, and PRC Ambassador in Damascus Li Qingyu.

The foreign minister explained Syria's perspective with regard to the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the relevant UN resolution and the ground rules set by the Madrid conference. He affirmed that this perspective enjoys the support and respect of the international community.

The foreign minister also explained the huge problems and obstacles facing the Gaza-Jericho accord, which are an obvious result of Israel's attempts to sow doubt among Arab sides and evade a comprehensive solution.

For his part, the head of the PRC delegation affirmed his country's firm support for Syria in its efforts to regain all of its territories. He expressed the belief that Syria has an important role to play in the efforts to achieve comprehensive peace. He added that there can be no peace in the region without Syria.

The two sides expressed their countries' mutual concern to expand and enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the PRC in various spheres.

PRC Official Comments, Departs

JN2211181093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Bingqin Wang, vice chairman of the PRC National People's Congress, and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon after an official six-day visit to Syria.

The guest Chinese delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Hasan al-Sibahi, Assembly member; and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus and several members of the Chinese Embassy staff.

Before departing Damascus, Bingqin made a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent. He thanked and appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to the delegation members. He voiced satisfaction with the results of the talks

held with the Syrian officials on enhancing the cooperation relations and mutual assistance in order to achieve social and economic growth and consolidate ties of friendship between the Syrian and Chinese peoples.

Bingqin added: I seized the opportunity of our visit to Syria to become acquainted with the Syrian viewpoint, so China can play its positive role in international affairs in order to champion justice against evil. He stressed that China stands alongside the just Arab causes, led by the Palestine question, and that China also supports the Syrian position in order to regain the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights.

Bingqin highly appreciated both the positive Syrian endeavors and Syria's important role in promoting the Middle East peace process. He said he admired what he and the accompanying delegation saw in terms of political stability, economic growth, and the great increase in the Syrian people's standard of living. He wished the Syrian people further progress and great and important achievements.

Al-Asad Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister, Message

JN1911194793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah at 1400 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was also present. Basindwah conveyed a message to the president from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Talks dealt with developments in Yemen. His excellency the president stressed Syria's concern about Yemen's unity and the need for all parties to adhere to it.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Basiji Commanders

NC2211140593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief, to commanders of the Basij Resistance Force at Takhti Stadium in Tehran on 21 November, the second day of Basij Week—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We were defeated in the Iran-Russia wars during Fath 'Ali Shah's rule. We were defeated in the Herat war. We were defeated in World War II, when they invaded our country. We were defeated each time one of our neighbors attacked any part of our country. But during the eight-year war, when almost all the military powers of the world had joined hands and had mobilized a government and a country against us, we defeated them; we were not defeated. Why? [crowd chants]

The same applies to other countries, too. I am saying this so that you can think it over and find a correct answer to the question, so that a path can be found through correct thinking, wise guidance, and precise calculation, exactly as the Iranian nation has been moving, with God's grace.

Look at other countries. There are Muslims in other Islamic countries too. We cannot say that the people in one country or another do not have the right kind of faith, although in some places and because of certain elements, people's faith may be weak or they may have nonreligious customs. However, most of the people in Islamic countries have a strong and deep faith. Proof of this can be found in the Central Asian countries, where they worked against religion for 80 years. But you see how these people continue to be interested in religion.

In many countries, the people have realized what their religious duties are and are correctly carrying out these duties, such as prayers and fasting. But these same people are unable to do anything to confront the enemy's cultural onslaught, to confront the enemies' political onslaught, to confront the economic onslaught by the world's arrogant companies, and to confront the enemies' military onslaught if it is carried out. Why? Why can't the large and populous countries in the Middle East, some of which neighbor the aggressive Zionist regime, cure this cancerous tumor, even though they are Muslim? What is the reason for this?

The reason for this is the same thing that led the great Iranian nation—despite its religion and faith—into failures until the era of our revolution. The reason is the same everywhere. The reason is that our nation did not enjoy the same excellent advantage in the past that it enjoyed throughout the eight years [of war]. Unfortunately, many other Muslim countries do not enjoy this today, as well. However, our nation has enjoyed this

advantage in the years since the revolution. And what is this advantage? It is the element that led to great victories and to the Iranian nation's success; and this element is the bond between the immense masses of pious people—youths, men, and women from various strata—with the central, divine, and wise leadership that has been working with all its might toward Islamic objectives and has shown the people the path that they should tread and where they should put their immense force to use.

The existence of a leadership and a guidance system, which was manifested by our great imam, a wise person, was what showed the path to this immense population of pious and committed Muslims. He was the one who told the people whom they should fight. He called on the people to fill their hearts with God and to turn to God. He warned the people to keep themselves armed and ready to confront the enemy so that the enemy could not fool them. Whenever it was necessary, he would tell the people what they should know. The imam was backed by the administrative system of the country—that is, the Islamic Republic's system.

But the issue is not represented only by the imam. God forbid if someone in the Islamic Republic's system, if the immense masses only came into contact with the leader and regard the administrative system of the country as a phenomenon that has nothing to do with attracting the people, guiding the people, putting the people's strength into motion, and supporting the people. This is wrong. It is because of this that you witnessed how the great Imam supported the country's officials on repeated occasions. If, God forbid, a deviation was seen in one of the country's officials, the great imam issued a warning. This was a duty. [passage omitted]

I said before that the reason for the various defeats throughout history is that people sometimes lose their ability to analyze. Wherever people are unable to carry out a correct analysis, that is a dangerous place and an area in which the enemy can inflict its blow.

I want to tell you this, my dear ones, my Basiji children and brothers, so that you can make this the beginning of a long and perpetual analysis to identify the enemy and understand what it is doing today. When a system and officials who are managing a big country like Iran can rely on each and every member of the nation, on these lively forces, on these youths who completely disregard danger when it comes to achieving their objectives, on these hearts that are filled with enthusiasm and love for a lofty aspiration, on these same people who carried out eight years of war, on these same people—this immense force inside the country—of whose resistance we are confident if we take a strong stand on world arrogance today; and when there is a strong bond and link between this immense force and the government's leadership and officials, the administrative system, the leader, and the government, the managers will find the overall strength to say no to world pressures and impositions so that arrogance cannot impose anything on them like the

United States and other tyrannical and usurping powers are imposing on many governments today. The managers will find strength, and the people's force will be used on behalf of the country's interests. The people's determination and their clenched fists will be used for the country's independence and development, toward a free life, and toward the grandeur of the nation. And what greater grandeur is there for a nation than rendering it impossible for a power to make it a tool or an instrument to achieve that power's wants? This is the greatest grandeur for any government.

Today the powerful of the world have become so impudent and the spirit of arrogance has strengthened so much in their unclean being that they blatantly state that one government, nation, regime or another should work for their interests. Who are you, anyway? Who are you to want to interfere in the affairs of an Asian, African, or any other country in the world? If you are such good people and you are supported by your people, you should manage your own country. What business is it of yours to interfere in the affairs of a country in another part of the world?

But unfortunately the question: What business is it of yours? is not dealt with by world governments, nations, and administrative establishments as a smack on the face of arrogance. If it were, arrogance would not have become so impudent. However, the Iranian nation has the strength to smack their face and tell them: What business is it of yours that has caused you to interfere? [crowd chants]

This strength has been gained from the bond between the officials of the Islamic Republic and the people, from the bond between the people and the officials of the Islamic Republic, from everyone's reliance on God, and from the inspirations in the Holy Koran and the divine teachings since the revolution began.

Look at the world's propaganda and look at the propaganda inside the country. Look at the remarks by the people. This is a criterion. Each remark and each voice that tries to weaken the bond between the leadership of the Islamic Republic and the nation is the voice of the enemy; and there is no doubt in this. Each establishment, each voice, each remark, and each pen that tries to spread doubts in the hearts of the people of the movement about the Islamic Republic's leadership and that tries to weaken the people is speaking on behalf of the enemy. Maybe those who are uttering such remarks and writing such words are unaware of what they are saying and writing. Someone may say something or write something as the spur of a moment and based on the wrong sentiments. However, this is ultimately provoked by the enemy and is undoubtedly to the benefit of the enemy. It stems from the enemy.

All the pens, remarks, hands, and efforts that are aimed at damaging the unity of this nation in defending the interests of the Islamic Revolution and of the Iranian nation stem from the enemy because it was through this

unanimity that we were able to bring the enemy to his knees. Any remark, any writing, or any establishment that tries to distort the face of the great imam now that he is no longer alive and that tries to question his acts and doubt his decisions, which enabled the Iranian nation to reach the zenith of credibility in the world—know this—belongs to the enemy.

But the breath, the heart, or the remark that tries to strengthen the ties between the nation and the institutions that run the country, the ties between the nation and religious principles, the ties among each and every official of the country, and the ties among the various organs that try to instill hope for the future in the hearts of the people, all move to prove to the people and to make them understand that an immense power like the Iranian nation is instilled with divine love and with trust in God and in Islam. When these arms and hands join together, then this immense power of the Iranian nation has the strength to push back all enemies and to build a nation and a country that befits an Islamic nation. [crowd chants]

The person who instills hope in hearts, who strengthens steps, who clarifies minds, who strengthens bonds, who strengthens faith, who does not exaggerate the enemy's strength, and who portrays it as it is...[sentence as heard] Of course it is wrong to underestimate the enemy. But the enemy should also not be overmagnified, something that the Zionist and arrogant propaganda media is doing today. They have made such giants out of the United States and other powers that if someone did not know any better, he would think that anything they point at would be reduced to ashes and vanish. What kind of words are these? If these powers had any strength, then the Islamic movement would not be able to spread its roots in the world and flourish more and more each day. Wherever these powers—or their elements—have interfered by force, they have created a burning hell and a swamp for themselves and their elements, and they have fallen in up to their throats in this swamp.

Look at the places where they have imposed their own people on nations. See what an ugly situation these countries are in and what problems they are facing. The strength of arrogance should not be exaggerated. The true meaning of power is the power of the nation if a nation's heart is strengthened with faith in God almighty and with the knowledge of divine teachings and when each and every member of the nation trusts the caring officials. This is, thank God, what forms a true power, and this is exactly what came into existence in our country at the beginning of the revolution led by the great imam, who was surrounded by the officials of the country and the immense nation, whose hearts held the light of the imam's guidance, who aimed their efforts in each and every direction called for by the interests of the nation, and who carried out great works. And thank God, they helped the country to advance.

Today the Iranian nation is honored in the world. Today the Iranian nation has been identified as a great nation.

Today inside the country, it is the determination of the people that is ruling and opening the path for the nation. Today the enemy does not dominate us. They do not influence us and, with God's help, they will never be able to influence us. Of course, they are trying to create problems, to hinder things, to drive a wedge between the wheels of the Islamic Republic, and to propagandize against this country, this nation, and its officials as much as they can. They do all these things. But with God's grace, with the help of you, the people, and with the determination of this nation, all these things will be destroyed.

Know the value of the Basij. Let the Basijis themselves know their own value. The officials should consider each and every Basiji as the most worthy members of the Iranian nation for their abilities. The Basiji youths, and especially you the commanders of the Basiji cells and units throughout the country who have gathered here today, should know the value of this divine formation that is extremely valuable. Try to protect these pure and pious youths and these pure hearts from the harm that the enemy's propaganda can do. One of the things that the enemy does is to contaminate our pure and pious youths. It tries to contaminate our young boys and girls. The youths themselves should be the first to resist the enemy's temptations, mischief, and deceitful propaganda that distracts the youths.

Also, the Basiji commanders and officials, as well as ideological and religious officials, should beware. They should also teach; offer divine and religious education, military education, and training; carry out the necessary maneuvers; form extremely strong formations; expand the Basij; grant responsibilities to Basiji members—men, women, old, and young—seize opportunities; and thus, God willing, be able to make the Basiji forces walk firmly on this holy and glorious path.

I deem it necessary to send my sincere and friendly greetings to all the dear Basijis throughout the country whom you are representing here today. All of us should send our greetings to the pure souls of the martyrs, the Basiji martyrs, the martyrs in the Armed Forces in the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps and the Law-Enforcement Forces, and to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. We should also greet the families of these dear martyrs and the families of our combatants whom they encouraged, as well as those of our POW's and MIA's who are still in captivity. We hope that good tidings will reach us and their families. We also hope that the disabled, the wounded, and their families and all of you will receive God's grace. We pray to God that the Basiji hearths be kept warm every day and that the Basijis will find more and more support among the people each day.

God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Koran Congress

LD2211113393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov

[Excerpt] On the third day of the Basij [Mobilization] Week, which is named the day of the Koran and the day of propagating virtues and prohibiting vice, the fourth Koran congress was held in Tehran today with the objective of understanding the Koran and the role played by this holy book in the guidance and enlightenment of mankind. Addressing the congress, Majles Speaker ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri explained the value and importance of the Basij resistance force and its mission, and paid tribute to the basij members and those who pursue the path of the noble Prophet of Islam. He said: Basij is linked to the center of the revolution, that is, the leader of the revolution and the guardian of the Muslims' cause [vali-ye amr], and received inspirations and orders from his eminence.

The speaker of the Islamic Majles stressed the need to obey the Koran and the vali-ye amr so as to remain immune from any deviation. [passage omitted]

UN, Amnesty International Rights Reports Condemned

Supreme Court Chief Scores UN Report

LD2311113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] The General Assembly of the State Supreme Court met this morning. At the session, Mr. Morteza Moqtada'i, chief of the State Supreme Court, in the course of remarks, honored the memory of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution, notably the martyrs of the imposed war, and also commemorated Basij Week. He then strongly condemned the false report of the UN envoy to the UN Human Rights Commission. This report has been compiled on the basis of incorrect information and would not stand up in any court. He expressed the consideration that the report is not worthy of attention. He rejected the allegations made in this report and noted that on the basis of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, trials are conducted in the presence of a defense lawyer in all courts throughout the country. If a case is not investigated in a correct manner or if the lawyers representing the disputing parties have not been involved in the trial procedure, the verdicts that have been issued will be revoked by the State Supreme Court and will be sent back for re-investigation to another court of the same status.

Jewish Community Refutes Amnesty Report

LD22111133093 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The Jewish community in Iran in a statement issued here Monday [22 November] described as "untrue" allegations raised by

Amnesty International alleging that rights of religious minorities were not respected in Iran.

Stressing that all minorities in Iran, including Jews, "are living a peaceful life with their Muslim brethren," the statement criticized compilers of the Amnesty International report for not telling the truth about life of the minorities in Iran.

The Jewish community, added the statement, had repeatedly urged foreign reporters and envoys coming to Iran to visit synagogues in and see how freely Iranian Jews perform their religious rituals.

Condemning the Amnesty International report, the community also reaffirmed its allegiance to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to its leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

Zoroastrians Condemn Charges

*LD231112893 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The Iranian Zoroastrians here Tuesday [23 November] condemned propaganda of the U.N. Human Rights Committee against Iran and termed the recent report of Amnesty International as "baseless and unfounded."

The society of Tehran's Zoroastrians in a statement today said the Zoroastrians, as a religious minority in Iran, live a free life with their Muslim brethren far from any religious discriminations.

The statement noted that according to the constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran the Zoroastrians are free to perform their religious rituals and have a representative in the Majles.

MKO Member Details Bombing Plot

*LD2311093893 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT
22 Nov 93*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO] terrorist group planned to bomb the French Embassy and the office of the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) in Tehran in the name of Hezbollah to foment foreign antagonism against the Islamic Republic, disclosed a captured outlaw here today.

Ehsan Zahedi said in an interview with IRNA described how he was picked by the Mojahedin-e Khalq—popularly known as Monafeqin (Hypocrites)—and how he was to carry out terrorist operations in Tehran with the idea of ascribing them to the advocates of the Iranian Government.

He admitted to have bombed, with the aid of a fellow terrorist, the office of the Air France in Tehran on November 9, and said his attempt to bomb the office of the AFP in uptown Tehran was aborted by security forces minutes before resulting in his arrest.

Zahedi said he received operations order from another terrorist, now at large, who in turn received orders from foreign based headquarters of the grouplet.

He said two terrorist teams, one of which entered Iran through Iraq, had been commissioned to carry out the plan.

The motive behind the plot, confessed Zahedi, was to strain Tehran-Paris relations in order to facilitate the entry into France of other prominent members of the grouplet based in Baghdad.

He said that he bombed the Air France office in collaboration with Mohammad Hayuri who later fled Iran.

The grouplet has a record of bloody crimes both inside Iran and against Iranian interests abroad.

Their most notorious act was the bombing of the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in Tehran in 1981 which resulted in the martyrdom of 72 top leaders including the then chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti.

Presence of MKO Leader in France Protested

*LD2311133193 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT
23 Nov 93*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—A number of Iranian students, graduates and former POWs in numerous letters to the French ambassador to Tehran have called on him to relay their protest to the French authorities against the presence of an MKO ringleader Maryam Qajar Azodanlu in France.

The letters in general have expressed surprise over the fact that the French Government, despite being fully aware of the terrorist nature of Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO), has granted asylum to an MKO ringleader. They have also called on the French Government to respect the demand of the Iranian nation and expell the MKO terrorists.

In a letter written by a group of former pows who were severely persecuted in the pows camp while in captivity in Iraq asks, "Mr. Ambassador don't you think that France's past mistakes in its relations with Iran, like the case of arming the Iraqi regime and hosting both the rightist and leftist anti-revolutionary Iranians, were enough to make the Iranian nation pessimist towards your statesmen and their state policies?"

Meanwhile, the law enforcement forces have tightened security measures around the French Embassy compound which came under grenade attack by the MKO terrorists two weeks ago.

Ehsan Zahedi, one of the MKO collaborators in the terrorist attack told IRNA here Monday that the MKO objective behind the attack was to bar Paris from possibly deciding to expell Azodanlu from France under Iranian pressure.

A five-member MKO team had recently crossed into Iran from Iraq to carry out terrorist operations against the French interests in the country.

According to the information ministry, two of the terrorists were killed by the Iranian forces near the Iraqi border while attempting to flee the country. @However, the other two managed to cross into Iraq while Zahedi was arrested.

New Camps Set Up for Azerbaijani Refugees

LD2011120993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society has established three camps in Imishli and Saatly districts in the Republic of Azerbaijan which have so far provided temporary housing for more than 30,000 Azerbaijani refugees who have lost their homes due to Armenia's aggression. Please listen to our correspondent's report from Baku on that:

[Correspondent] Apart from being temporarily housed, these groups of refugees also receive food and their basic requirements from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society.

Preparation work for the establishment of another two camps, each capable of housing 5,000 refugees, in the districts of Jalilabad and Saatly is almost complete and soon tents will be set up in those areas.

On the other hand, site-preparation has been completed in the huge camp of Gasanli and the setting up of tents will begin soon.

At the same time sites have been selected and site-preparation works have begun in the districts of Aqdzhabedi, Ali-Bayramly, and Dashburun to house another 25,000 refugees in those areas.

Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Ali Tahmazov, who has been assigned by that country's cabinet to deal with the affairs of the refugees, spoke to the Central News Unit at the Imishli refugee site. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing temporary housing for that country's war-refugees and praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society's relief workers for their speedy setting up of the camps. He added: The leadership and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan are thankful that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken a definite decision to help our refugees.

Editorial Warns Armenia of Consequences of Aggression

NC1911164293 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 Nov 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Armenia Has Crossed the Thin Red Line"]

[Text] In their latest attempts, the Armenians have occupied another part of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

This Armenian attempt took place at a time when many observers believed that the current situation in Karabakh would be maintained because of the political efforts that are being exerted to solve the conflict between the two sides.

But these efforts have been futile because of the refusal by the Armenians and Armenia to bend. Even though the Karabakh crisis is also considered a hotbed by the world community, the sensitivity that the Islamic Republic of Iran feels toward this issue is greater than the Armenians think. A brief glance at Iran's peace efforts during the past two years clearly prove this point. Tehran's only wish is for a respectable peace to be attained and for the rights of all those who have become victims of aggression to be restored. But the Armenians have resorted to all kinds of excuses to block all the paths leading to peace.

Tens of thousands of Azeri refugees are now being housed along the Islamic Republic's borders, while a military battle is raging only a few steps away from Iran's borders.

Some observers believe that Armenia is confident of Moscow's support and that it is not afraid of continuing such behavior. Even though these views by Armenia do not conform with principles of international diplomacy, they definitely have become part of Armenia's reasoning.

Assuming that these observers are right, doesn't Moscow attach any significance to regional goodneighborly relations with Tehran?

If the answer by some to this question is negative, then definitely these people are among those who do not have the faintest idea of current regional conditions.

Under current conditions, the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be affected by the expansionist ideas of a newly emerged, small country in the region.

Armenia should not forget that the continuation of this process against the Azeri Muslims will result in support for these Muslims by the billion-strong Muslim population in the world. At the same time, Iran cannot ignore a military confrontation that is taking place close to its borders.

The Armenians have ignored Iran's warnings and have crossed the thin red line. They have adopted expansionist ideas in an area where only some steps away from Karabakh they witnessed the failure of two extensive aggressions during the past decade.

Today, bullets are exploding near the Iranian borders; and not only Iran, but the world community are expressing concern over what tomorrow will bring. Armenia should realize that each bullet that crosses the Iranian border, or even if they continue playing with fire on Iran's borders, future political approaches will be adopted on the basis of perceived aggression.

Armenia has closed the doors to peace and has shut its eyes to realities. If it has forgotten the interests of other countries, then it has also burned all its bridges.

If the Armenians can recall history, they should recall their own past and learn a lesson from many other aggressors. They should also realize as best they can that they have crossed the thin red line in the region, and that they must therefore bear all the consequences.

Editorial Discusses Aid for Azerbaijani Refugees

NC2011155893 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Nov 93
pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Why Is the World Silent?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Armenian war machinery is usurping more areas of Azerbaijani territory and, with its scorched earth policy in these urban and rural areas, is making their people resort to "forced emigration."

These crimes are so extensive that the number of Azerbaijani refugees is increasing daily. At least 650,000 people have been forced to abandon their homes and it is feared their number may reach 1 million.

This is going on despite the oncoming winter, which threatens the lives of the children and aged men and women. In such circumstances the world has maintained a silence in the face of the Armenians' savage aggression to further its policy of expansionism and most of the filthy hands of colonialism are supporting these aggressors.

The UN deputy commissioner for refugees Hitoshi Misay [name as published] in Tehran declared his position in this respect and expressed his appreciation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian and friendly assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees.

The fact is that in the current critical state in Azerbaijan, Islamic Iran has been the only one to display fraternal, humanitarian empathy with its practical measures to provide relief and shelter to the refugees and to accommodate them in the Red Crescent camps in Imishli. Iran has also housed groups of these refugees on their own land and extended support to them. This great service by Islamic Iran stems from the lofty humanitarian-Islamic spirit of its nation. Without any hope of benefits, Iran eliminated the need for the Azerbaijanis to migrate to other lands and provided them with every facility, service, food, and clothing on their own territory.

The UN deputy commissioner for refugees inspected the Imishli camp on Azerbaijani territory, which was set up by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent, and deemed Iran's assistance timely. He admitted that "international assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees is extremely sparse."

Don't forget that the UN deputy commissioner did nothing positive in this respect and was a mere "spectator" at this amazing sight. Similar reactions—much talk

and minimal effective practical measures, which hardly merit mention—were witnessed on other occasions when the UN commissioners inspected the camps for Iraqi, Afghan, and other refugees. Even the exorbitant expenses of their groups' assignments are being disbursed from funds allocated for the refugees.

So, you can say that for this visit as well, Hitoshi may have had his expenses approved from the special funds allocated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for Azerbaijani refugees.

Hitoshi has claimed that \$1.5 million came from the United Nations' emergency budget for the Azerbaijani refugees. But it is not clear what the money was spent on, when the sole source of assistance to the oppressed Azerbaijani refugees has been that which has come from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran should divulge everything that has been left unsaid so that it may become clear that the burden of assistance to the Azerbaijani refugees again lies with Islamic Iran and others are deliberately keeping quiet, maintaining a silence on the subject.

Qatari Foreign Minister Al Thani Arrives in Tehran

LD2011105993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Qatar's Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jassim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high-ranking political delegation. He was greeted by our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati.

According to the Central News Unit, Qatar's foreign minister will be discussing with the authorities of our country the latest developments in the region, issues of interest to the two countries, especially bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields.

Discuss Relations With Velayati

LD2011175393 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT
20 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Visiting Foreign Minister of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani told Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today that he was happy with the steadily improving relations between Iran and Qatar and progress of the project to supply Qatar with fresh water from Iran.

He said the good relations between the two countries would help promote relations among other countries of the region.

In response Velayati, expressed pleasure with the current state of Tehran-Doha relations and expressed hope that the two countries would further broaden their cooperation in the future.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD211120193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Qatari Foreign Minister Mr. Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani.

At the meeting the president noted the importance of further extensive cooperation among the Persian Gulf littoral states for the better utilization of their existing resources and said: Mutual cooperation between Iran and countries of the region, particularly Qatar, are progressing.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the upcoming OPEC session and stressed the need for extensive cooperation among the OPEC member countries to achieve stable and fair oil prices, as well as to adopt a coordinated method to stem production market fluctuations.

The president said that the exploitation of Iran and Qatar's joint gas resources offers appropriate grounds for cooperation and bilateral exchange of views. The president also welcomed the further deepening of mutual trust and friendship with the Persian Gulf littoral states.

During the meeting, in which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, the Qatari foreign minister conveyed the Qatari amir's greetings for the Iranian government and nation and expressed his country's willingness to expand and deepen its relations with Iran.

He termed as valuable the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf region, and expressed the hope that through friendship and joint cooperation between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Qatar the region will witness development of relations on the basis of mutual respect and the two nation's interests in political, technical, trade, and economic fields.

Holds Talks With Nateq-Nuri

LD2111135893 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Qatari foreign minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani had two separate meetings with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today. [passage omitted]

In another meeting with the Qatari official, the majlis speaker said Islamic countries should know that the enemy is set to destroy them merely because they are Muslims. Nateq-Nuri said that Muslims should know that consolidation of their commonalities would lay the foundation stone for further unity among them in their struggle against the common enemy. Islamic countries should adopt moves to strengthen each other in the international organizations instead of having conflicts, in order to be able to solve their problems, added the

speaker. He called for further promotion of Tehran-Doha ties in various fields and announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to ratify laws necessary for facilitating bilateral relations.

Al Thani in reply stressed cooperation among the Muslim world to counter the west and warned that it has covetous eyes on Muslims natural resources and wealth. He said that the west is trying to destroy Muslims resources and wealth through various means, including wars and crises. The Qatari official condemned the west for abuse of human rights as a tool against Islam and Muslims and said that they (westerners) consider execution of Islamic laws in muslim countries as violation of human rights. Al Thani regretted that west's abuse was due to lack of unity and understanding among Islamic countries. He added that in view of its hatred and enmity against Muslims, the west will never permit establishment of an Islamic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the region and if the issue was not an Islamic one they would surely have found a solution to it long ago.

Embassy in London To Reopen

LD2211210893 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] London, Nov. 22, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in London is to finally reopen next month after being gutted by the British SAS [Special Air Service] secret army in 1980.

The 13-year delay in having the diplomatic mission virtually completely rebuilt and refurbished has been due to disputes over the payment of the repairs, which was not agreed until 1988, and subsequent delays in having the work carried out.

The renovation of both the outside and inside of the building is now complete and, according to diplomatic sources here, the embassy will formally reopen on December 6. The ambassador's residence will revert to its original purpose after its use as a temporary mission.

Under an agreement reached in June 1988, Britain accepted to pay pounds 1.8 million (dlrs 2.7 m) in compensation for its destruction by the SAS, after the embassy was seized by armed Iraqi agents in April 1980.

The takeover of the mission followed an attempted U.S. invasion of Iran six days earlier, but which ended so disastrously for the American elite Delta Force that was said to be trying to rescue its spies caught red-handed at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Both operations were thought to have been coordinated in planning to bring down the newly established Islamic revolution in Iran. The Iraqi agents, seizing the London embassy, were misleadingly presented as demanding an annexation of the oil rich province of Khuzestan.

After the U.S. debacle in the desert at Tabas, the five Iraqi gunmen were left with a mission impossible and the

SAS were called in to destroy all evidence, but not until two Iranian diplomats were martyred first.

The terrorists were thought to have become desperate with no way out and killed Abbas Lavasani and 'Ali Akbar Samadzadeh, before Britain's elite secret army were to attack, reportedly on the direct orders of Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, to take no prisoners.

Some of the terrorists were said to have been killed after surrendering. One was reported to have eighty-two bullet wounds. Nevertheless, in all the confusion, one was saved with the hostages by mistake, only to be given a long prison sentence.

Ceremonies To Mark 4 Nov Anniversary Assessed

NC2011195093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "'Death to America' Is the Common Slogan of All the Forces of the Revolution"]

[Text] Our nation's cry against the enemy of humanity headed by criminal America is as loud today as it was in the first days of the revolution. Some may think the shout "Death to America" belongs to a specific time and place, but history has shown that our everlasting cry until our revolution's goals are achieved should always include the call for the death and annihilation of America's system of hellish domination; that's the way it is.

This year, the anniversary of the struggle against arrogance was particularly magnificent and grand and everyone saw the clear cry of our nation against America's diktat spread throughout the country like lightning. But now after the nationwide ceremonies marking the great anniversary of 4 November the time has come to ponder some issues concerning the way the anniversary was marked and the questionable stance by the Interior Ministry and some university students to prevent shortcomings and faults from recurring.

During the past two years, two separate ceremonies have been held on 4 November in Tehran in front of the den of spies; the organizers of the ceremonies have perceptibly varying political-social views. Both groups believe in Islam, in the revolution, and in the leadership with all their might. But their opinions differ on tactics and methods to achieve their goals.

These two political and ideological dispositions do exist and each one has gained its own supporters among the various strata. It would be wonderful if the supporters of these varying views would achieve national unity and mark this memorable day with a common ceremony; in that case voices can be heard much better. But at the same time, we should not ignore that various different gatherings that "pursue the common objective" of continuing protests and expressing rage and aversion for criminal America should not be considered as a weak

point calling for measures to be taken by officials and decisionmaking centers—and in a weak and inexpressive way at that.

All those who participated in these ceremonies firmly believe in Islam, in the revolution, and in the leader and they have come to the scene of anti-American demonstrations with a common objective. An explicit complaint must be voiced against the students and the Interior Ministry on the way each has behaved.

We want to address the university students first. Experience has shown that our university students have been a "revolutionary faction" throughout time. Even at the peak of the oppression exercised by the shah's despotism, our universities were extremely sensitive toward society's political problems. Sometimes these feelings are genuinely and overtly expressed. A clear example was the major efforts by students throughout the country, helping the revolution to peak and resulting in the savage massacre of dear students by the executioner of the shah's despotic regime in front of Tehran University.

Holding a ceremony on 1 November to mark the 4 November anniversary does not appear to be logical or acceptable. Rather than being a sincere effort to raise shouts against America, this act is a divisive step that is interpreted as an effort to take sides. The ceremonies that have been marked throughout the revolution have always been shows of unity and solidarity. Now some are using them as a means to spread discord.

As effective elements in the country's political life, the students should have displayed great political-social instinct; it is not a very complicated issue that cannot be understood.

It is from this angle that some may try to portray the students' marking of the 4 November anniversary on 1 November as an effort to create "predispositions." Let us not forget that opportunists may exploit such issues in a bid to portray that a rift and discord have emerged among the supporters of the revolution who are staunch opponents of America and thus seize the opportunity to start sinister murmurs about a compromise with the criminal America.

Now let us discuss the shortcomings of the Interior Ministry, which was not as resourceful as it should have been. The students' immature behavior may be put down to their youth, their revolutionary zeal, and the excitement of their anti-American feeling. But the thoughtless behavior by the Interior Ministry regarding the students' behavior was unacceptable.

It is understandable that there should be a place and a center known as the "Supreme Council [of the Islamic] Propaganda [Organization]," which is in charge of ceremonies marking memorable days of the revolution. We should all accept as a basic principle that this center's existence is not inconsistent with holding marches and demonstrations and displaying the nation's "self-ebullient and popular" rage and enthusiasm. Even if

events call for holding various gatherings and meetings, this does not harm the nation's unity, solidarity, or grandeur. The important thing is that the objective and the motive of the forces are in line with the natural course that the system and the revolution are treading and with what the people want. In this case there will be no place for worry and this can even attract forces with varying views and tastes.

Even if decisions had been made on how the 4 November ceremonies would be marked and views and regulations had been envisaged, alertness and prudence have their own place and the Interior Ministry should have displayed more prudence in its behavior so that the students' rage, their cries, and speeches on 4 November, which should naturally have been aimed at America, would not be aimed, instead, at some of the Interior Ministry's officials because of some of their decisions. What would be the problem if the students could shout against America in front of the den of spies on the same day?

Confused, intimidated, and naive elements should not think that all these things have changed things in their favor, that the nation has been diverted from its struggle against America, and that a war has broken out between two modes of thought.

Ceremonies could have been held in a better manner, but what happened was a good experience for those who support talks with America; they could see that even under such conditions, supporters of either side strongly reject any type of talks or compromise with America. Today, all the committed political activists and pundits in this country strongly reject compromise with America; such "temporizers" should not think the conditions and the situation are changing to their benefit. The accepted strategy of all the supporters of the revolution is exactly what the leader of the revolution has firmly stated. People with varying tastes may have varying views on the tactics that are needed to achieve this strategy, but everyone has seen that the shout of every member of the nation is: "Death to America."

Swiss Ambassador, Zarif Discuss POW Issue

LD2211134893 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—The newly-appointed Swiss ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Radolf Weier Smuller, and Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif here today discussed release of the remaining prisoners of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran (1980-88).

Briefed on Iran's plans for the release of the pows, Smuller said he would first raise the issue in a meeting with head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and would inform the Iranian officials of the results later.

Prior to his appointment to the post, Smuller was chief coordinator of refugees international affairs department at Swiss Foreign Ministry.

In his previous meetings with Iranian authorities he had announced readiness to help Iran set free the remaining pows.

Radio-TV's Response to Majles Report Observed

NC2111142593 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Killing Two Birds With One Stone or Lack of Memory"]

[Excerpts] After the publication of the harshly worded and hasty response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the report by the Islamic Majles's research and investigative panel, along with the amazement and wonder of miscellaneous observers, which one of the evening papers of 7 November commented on under the headline: "Innovation on the Part of the Voice and Vision Chief." This article carried an appraisal or, to describe it better, a refutation of the organization's response. It described this action by the Voice and Vision officials as an outrage that they initiated when the new cabinet members received a vote of confidence.

The editorial stated: "For the first time, Mohammad Hashemi initiated an innovation in the Voice and Vision when the vote of confidence was given to the new cabinet, and he has continued this practice ever since." This newspaper then discussed the contents of the report and the response by the Voice and Vision, and it proclaimed its presence as a participant in this controversy.

Even though the three issues—one, the research and investigative panel's report; two, the response by the Voice and Vision; and three, the editorial on the subject—contain remarks that are worthy of discussion and are, in fact, necessary, we want to address our remarks to our journalist colleagues who have embarked on combating such outrageous practices. [passage omitted] Certain incidents have fueled the ambiguity of the issue. In 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991], Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mehdi Karrubi, the erstwhile Majles speaker, objected to the Voice and Vision's deletion of the slogan "Death to America" from the speech of his eminence the imam. Without even contacting the Majles, the Voice and Vision organization issued a statement denying the Majles speaker's allegations, and when the deputies were discussing the Voice and Vision's budget allocation they presented a number of programs leveling accusations against those who called for adjustments in the organization's budget.

The question is: Do you consider this an innovative step? Wasn't issuing such a statement against the Majles speaker and presenting insulting programs against the deputy who had called for a review of the Voice and Vision budget an outrageous act? If you consider all these actions unpleasant and disgusting, what did your

newspaper do to condemn such innovation? Did it encourage it or condemn it? Did it encourage or denounce the perpetrator? [passage omitted]

In conclusion, we consider it necessary to point out to the writer of the editorial on innovation that he has a journalistic mission and draw his attention to the fact that as long as the relevant apparatus does not act according to its obligations, and if the executive, legislature, and judiciary do not follow the course of law, the action by the management of the Voice and Vision—which you have termed innovative—will not be the last of such actions. [passage omitted]

Radio-TV Chief Discusses New TV Channel, Majles Criticism

NC2111193593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 14 Nov 93
pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Mohammad Hashemi, director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified correspondents, including ABRAR correspondent, in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] The head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Hashemi has said that the third network of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be inaugurated on 5 December on the occasion of the auspicious birthday of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra' [Prophet Muhammad's daughter] (peace be upon her).

Mohammad Hashemi said that the objective of this network will be to fill the leisure hours of the people, especially the youth, and that this network will provide coverage to one-third of the country's population. It will initially commence operations by transmitting four hours of programs every day.

In answer to a question by the ABRAR correspondent on how the budget for this network was obtained, he said: The third network is solely supported by the Government, but we do not know who will assist us in the future.

Regarding the highlights of the programs to be presented on this network, he said that it will carry sports tournaments, films, Koranic recitations, art, literature, poetry, music and other programs for entertainment. He added that since the VHF band is already full, the programs can be viewed on the UHF band [preceding two words in English]. [passage omitted]

He said that the areas that will be covered by this network are some of the deprived provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan, Sistan va Baluchestan, Shiraz, and Bandar-e 'Abbas and added: By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan period, many populated provinces and cities will be able to view the third network. [passage omitted]

The head of the Voice and Vision once again referred to differences in taste and stated: Regardless of what we transmit, there is always a segment of people who are unhappy. Even regarding the newscasts, one person

approached me and stated: Would it not be better if instead of such and such a female newsreader, a male newsreader could be appointed. After all, this affects us.

In answer to a correspondent's question on the recent issue (the report by the Islamic Majles' research and investigative panel) Hashemi said: The necessary responses have been provided and I do not consider it appropriate to say anything here when the other side is not present.

He added: Obedience to the leader is the prime principle of all managers and employees and whatever he says we will accept with all our hearts and will not hesitate for a second in making amendments.

Continuing his interview, he alluded to privatization of television and said: The radio and television are put under government monopoly in our country's Constitution, although there are some private sectors that assist us in the production of programs. However, privatization is impossible, based on the Constitution.

In response to a query by an IRNA correspondent, the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that he would welcome the setting up of a court to examine violations of the Constitution by the members of the Islamic Majles research and investigative panel and added: We hope that the matter will be assessed by a qualified tribunal.

Hashemi referred to Article 39 of the Constitution, which states: "The defamation of character and slandering of a person's reputation even though he has been arrested, imprisoned, or exiled on the basis of a legal injunction, is forbidden." Hashemi said: The report by the Majles' research and investigative panel, which was carried for four hours by the radio all over the country and was published in most newspapers, has tarnished the individual and collective reputations of the managers and employees of the Voice and Vision. This is a blatant violation of the Constitution's principles, which is punishable. [passage omitted]

Hashemi continued: We objected to the remarks by the research and investigation group, as the opinions and decrees of the imam (peace be upon him) were overtly questioned and distorted in this report. He stressed the eight years of the activities of the Voice and Vision during the lifetime of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, and presented examples of the endorsement of the programs of the Voice and Vision by the founder of the Islamic Republic. He added: Is it not strange that from among 1,552 segments of indigenously produced television programs that have been presented, the research and investigative group objected to those few that were especially endorsed by the late imam and other high-level officials in the past years of the Voice and Vision's management? [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Islamic Majles' Public Relations Department's statement on the response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on

Wednesday, Hashemi said: We are sincerely grateful to the Majles Public Relations Department for propounding this debate in the press. We will also be following up on the matter so that henceforth we can prevent any violation of the Constitution.

In the above statement it had been mentioned that the Islamic Majles castigates this action, which is an innovation for distorting of the legitimate rights of one of the institutions of the Islamic Republic and will seek ways to abolish this bad tradition.

The head of the Voice and Vision declared: We are ready to participate in a debate, and we will convey to the general public other relevant issues and reasons that we may consider worth mentioning.

Commentary on Reasons Behind Radio-TV Controversy

NC2211084093 Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Petty Bickering"]

[Excerpts] For quite a while, controversy has been raging between the Majles research and investigative panel and the management of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The panel's report was read from the Majles podium one day, and, before the report's accuracy or inaccuracy could be fairly assessed, the people were presented with a harshly worded response by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the national radio network. The sounds of this clamorous pronouncement were still resounding in our ears when the public relations department of the Islamic Majles attacked the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's management for its allegations and warned that the Voice and Vision management would someday have to answer for its denigration of the Majles deputies. The Voice and Vision delivered a retort to the attack, and so it continues....

It is obvious that political and nonpolitical circles should comment on and analyze this issue from various angles, and there has been a great deal of speculation about future events and the possibility of appointments and dismissals. In fact, some of those who are fueling this speculation have already had fantasies about dismissing some individuals and appointing others.

Regardless of this, if a newspaper with a limited circulation even ventures to make some comment that is 10 times more tepid than the others on this controversy, everyone's blood begins to boil. Tongues lash out like well-honed swords, demanding to know why such remarks were published. Why is such tension being generated in society? Why are people being defamed? Why are the people being made to feel disillusioned? Why are you giving the enemy pretexts? And on it goes, ad nauseam. [passage omitted]

The Voice and Vision, which has responded to the Majles' public relations department, carries the live relay

of the deputies' speeches from the Majles podium. There is no doubt that one of the sources of pride in our system is a Majles in which the deputies are able to defend the rights of the nation, guard the divine values of the revolution, and say whatever they want at any time. They convey their opinions to the mature nation and affirm that they are their deputies, and the Constitution gives them the right to do this. No one has the right to hound a deputy for expressing his opinion.

Some years ago, during the lifetime of his eminence the imam (peace be upon him), this tribune [preceding word in English] displeased some who tried to seize every opportunity to cover their erroneous wishes with a cloak of legitimacy by saying that the deputies occasionally make remarks that are harmful to the interests of the country, so this practice should be discontinued. Of course his eminence the imam always endorsed the opinions of the deputies. [passage omitted]

Finally, 15 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have a Majles that has given free rein to this tribune. But once again, we have a feud on the radio between the Majles and the Voice and Vision management that has created conditions for the implementation of the same inauspicious desires. [passage omitted]

Arak Petrochemical Complex To Become Operational

LD2211105193 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT
22 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Arak's petrochemical complex in the Central Province will come on stream next week, daily HAMSHAHRI reported here Monday [22 November]. The complex will be put into operation with an annual capacity of 550,000 tons of petrochemical products.

The report further added that the complex, to be equipped with 14 units, would produce plastic utensils, tyres, synthetic materials, industrial equipment, toys, and detergents. The complex is planned in two phases. The first phase, including 8 units, is ready for operation while the other 6 units, to be installed in the second phase, would be put in line in the early stage of the second development plan.

A total of dlr. 1,940 million has been budgeted for the project.

Pakistan

South African Foreign Minister Pays Visit

Comments on Arrival

BK1911151293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The foreign minister of South Africa, Mr. Pik Botha, arrived in Islamabad this evening on a three-day

official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the foreign secretary, and high officials. Mr. Botha will hold wide-ranging talks with the foreign minister tomorrow. He will also call on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

In an exclusive interview with PTV correspondent Abdul Khaleq Sarkana, Mr. Botha described the prospects of economic cooperation between Pakistan and his country as very promising.

[Begin recording] [Sarkana] Your visit is the first high-level contact between South Africa and Pakistan. How do you visualize the future relationship between the two countries?

[Botha] That of course is the main purpose of our visit... [pauses] is to discover, to learn, to explore which are the areas where the two governments can cooperate more closely. I would like to explore with my colleague and others here all the possibilities. There are specific areas, starting with air services; already, I think, an agreement has been concluded. There are areas like exchanges of technology in agriculture, in road construction, in many areas. We might have expertise that you require, but you might also have technology that we require. We must now get down, I think, to the job of investigating properly and scientifically all these areas of potential cooperation and then come with proposals to the two governments.

[Sarkana] What are the future prospects for economic cooperation?

[Botha] I think, very promising. Very promising.

[Sarkana] You have passed the Constitution. Do you see any problems for the forthcoming elections?

[Botha] Yes, there might be problems. We are concerned at the present moment, at the very height of the violence. I think, that's problem number one. The violence will have to be reduced; the violence will have to be resisted. And the leaders of the country must start disciplining their followers, and I am sure that they do not misinterpret the policies of their leaders. And secondly, we would hope that in the days ahead of us—because we do not have weeks, we have days—that some of the important parties who are now excluded from the negotiating process would [have] second thoughts and join the process. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan will recognize South Africa, keeping in view the recent changes there and bilateral relations between the two countries. In an interview in Islamabad today, the foreign minister said the apartheid policies pursued in South Africa were the hitch in recognition of that country. There were UN sanctions against South Africa and we just followed the UN resolutions like other nations of the world.

Referring to the visit of South African foreign minister to Pakistan, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said ways and means

will be explored to boost the existing bilateral cooperation, especially in trade. He observed that both the countries can learn from each other's experience.

Meets With Counterpart

BK2011154293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of Pakistan and South Africa have held wide-ranging talks on various issues. The South African foreign minister, Mr. Pik Botha, who had a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad today, explained the nature of the South African politics and the complex nature of the constitutional problem. This was the first visit of any South African minister to Pakistan. The foreign minister clarified many points regarding historic political developments in Pakistan culminating in the general elections of October 1993. Mr. Botha felt that Pakistan is now well set on the road to working a democratic order and expressed great admiration for the level of economic growth in the country.

The foreign minister, while explaining developments in the region, briefed the South African foreign minister on the nature of the Kashmir dispute and the desire of Pakistan to seek a peaceful settlement with India in accordance with international obligations. Mr. Botha also stressed that his country was undergoing a traumatic and historic transformation, but that a watershed had been reached with the recent agreement on an interim constitution.

Pakistan and South Africa have decided for an early exchange of high-level visits at the government and trade levels to identify areas of mutual cooperation. The decision was taken at a meeting between the visiting South African foreign minister, Mr. Pik Botha, and the minister of state for commerce, Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promotion of bilateral trade. During the meeting, the minister of state for commerce reviewed trade prospects of Pakistan and the South African market and observed that there is a good scope of cooperation between the two countries in textiles, leather, rice, sports goods, surgical instruments, and light engineering goods. He also indicated the possibility of joint ventures among trading and industrial concerns of the two countries.

Received by Bhutto

BK2111151193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The foreign minister of South Africa, Mr. Fredrik Botha, called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today and briefed her on the recent developments in his country. The prime minister welcomed the progress toward democracy in South Africa. During the meeting, satisfaction was expressed over the establishment of a liaison and representative office in

Pakistan and South Africa. The prime minister appreciated cultural and trade-level contacts between the two countries and said there is immense potential for cooperation in many fields, including the possibility of joint projects. In response to Mr. Botha's request, the prime minister assured that upgradation of relations to full diplomatic level will be considered.

New Intelligence Chief, Other Officials Named

BK2011133193 Peshawar *THE FRONTIER POST* in English 19 Nov 93 p 1

[Excerpts] Islamabad—In a major reshuffle, the federal government Thursday has transferred several secretaries including chief secretary Punjab and director intelligence bureau.

F.K. Lodhi, chief secretary, has been moved to establishment division in place of U.A.G. Isani secretary general transferred as secretary railways and chairman railways board, Javed Ahmed Qureshi Punjab's chief secretary during Manzoor Wattoo's tussle with the former Nawaz regime has been once again posted as chief secretary Punjab.

Nur Leghari an officer of police service who had served as director intelligence bureau during the last tenure of Ms Benazir Bhutto has been posted to the old post in place of Gohar Zaman Mahmud transferred as secretary states and frontier regions. [passage omitted]

An OSD [officer on special duty] Masood Sharif has been made director federal investigation agency. Brigadier (Retd) Muhammad Akhtar Khan, an OSD, has been transferred to PM's secretariat as joint secretary.